



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

December 5, 2016

MR. MICHAEL BEST
MUCKROCK
DEPARTMENT MR 24343
411A HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144-2516

FOIPA Request No.: 1347937-000
Subject: FONZI, GAETON

Dear Mr. Best:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions:

Section 552

☒ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(2)

☒ (b)(3)

50 U.S.C. § 3024 (i)(1)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(5)

☒ (b)(6)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

☒ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

119 page(s) were reviewed and 117 page(s) are being released. Enclosed are also 79 pages of previously processed documents.

Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency (ies) [OGA].

This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.

We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

In accordance with standard FBI practice and pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552/552a (b)(7)(E)/(j)(2)], this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

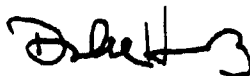
You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

✓

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

The enclosed documents contained in Chicago files 194B-CG-614 E,G,O,Q; Headquarters files 194-HQ-4862, 49-HQ-16135, 62-HQ-30388, and 161-HQ-12863; Miami file 92-MM-517 and other sensitive files represent the final release of information responsive to your FOIA request.

In response to your FOIA request, cross-references were located wherein Gaeton Fonzi is mentioned in files concerning another individual, organization, event, activity, or the like. Enclosed is a processed copy of the following cross-references: 194B-CG-614 Sec 3, 194B-CG-614G Sec 2, 194B-CG-614O Sec 1, 194B-CG-614G Sec 5, 194B-CG-614G Sec 4, 92-MM-517 Sec 3, 194B-CG-614G Sec 3, and 92-MM-517 Sec 7.

In processing the cross-references, the pages considered for possible release included only those pages which mention Fonzi by name and any additional pages showing the context in which the name Fonzi was mentioned. When such a page also contained information about other subject matters, the information "outside the scope" of the request was marked "O/S" and bracketed. If possible, the O/S material was released. It was withheld if consultation with another government agency would be required or if it was otherwise exempt from disclosure. For your information, the exemptions that would have applied to that material had it been within the scope of your request have also been noted on the document.

To minimize costs to both you and the FBI, duplicate copies of the same document were not processed.

Records (HQ 62-109060 Serial 4445, 7697, 7681, HQ 62-117290 Serial 320-P1, 274-P1, HQ 62-117228 Serial 1, 94-HQ-63733 Serial 2, 3, 5) which may be responsive to your FOIA request, were destroyed. Since this material could not be reviewed, it is not known if it was responsive to your request. Record retention and disposal is carried out under the supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Title 44, United States Code, Section 3301 and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 12, Sub-chapter B, Part 1228. The FBI Records Retention Plan and Disposition Schedules have been approved by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and are monitored by NARA.

For your additional information, records that may be responsive to your FOIA request have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). You may desire to direct a request to NARA, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference the file numbers 161-WF-12295 and 161-MM-1480.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

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OCT 17 1969

Name _____
 Title _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____
 Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Fax _____
 E-mail _____
 Date _____
 Signature _____

R 181640Z MAR 85

TO DIRECTOR (194-4749) ROUTINE

MIAMI (194C-318) (NCC-2) (FLRA) ROUTINE

BT

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ATTENTION: SSA [REDACTED] WCC, ROOM 3849, FIBHQ

INCUBATOR; OO: CHICAGO.

RE CHICAGO TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, FEBRUARY 21,
1985.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, THIS
COMMUNICATION CONCERNS MURDER ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST

LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND, A RELATED ARTICLE

CONCERNING THE MURDER ALLEGATIONS TO BE PUBLISHED IN
THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE WRITTEN BY FREE LANCE


WRITER GAETON FONZI

AS THE BUREAU IS AWARE, ON FEBRUARY 22, 1985,

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PAGE TWO

CG 194C-614 SUB O

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FBIHQ FURNISHED APPROVAL FOR SAC CHICAGO TO PERSONALLY
CONTACT GAETON FONZI AND HIS PUBLISHERS REGARDING
THE BIOGRAPHICAL ARTICLE TO BE PUBLISHED CONCERNING
[REDACTED] IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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AS A RESULT OF THIS APPROVAL, ON FEBRUARY 25,
1985, SAC CHICAGO TRAVELED TO MIAMI, FLORIDA AND
PERSONALLY DISCUSSED THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE
ARTICLE WITH THE EDITORS OF THE MAGAZINE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AND
WRITER GAETON FONZI IN THE PRESENCE OF FBI SPECIAL
AGENT [REDACTED] (MIAMI DIVISION).

SAC CHICAGO AND THE PARTIES MENTIONED ABOVE
REACHED AN AGREEMENT WHEREBY A SPECIFIC STORY BEING
PREPARED BY MR. FONZI WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED UNTIL
THE JULY ISSUE OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE. IT WAS
ALSO AGREED THAT SAC CHICAGO ON OR ABOUT MAY 15, 1985,
OR EARLIER, WOULD ARRANGE FOR EDITOR [REDACTED] AND FONZI
TO BE GIVEN A FRANK AND CANDID BRIEFING BY ASSISTANT
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (AUSA) [REDACTED] NORTHERN
DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS (NDI), CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. IT

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PAGE THREE

CG 194C-614 SUB O

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WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE FBI WOULD ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE
SOME UNANSWERED QUESTIONS REGARDING [REDACTED] OF
INTEREST TO FONZI AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE.

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SAC CHICAGO REQUESTED THAT ALL PRESENT AT THE
MEETING MAINTAIN THE DISCUSSIONS IN ABSOLUTE
CONFIDENCE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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SAC CHICAGO CONFIRMED THESE AGREEMENTS VIA
LETTER TO [REDACTED] DATED MARCH 1, 1985. IN THE
LETTER, SAC CHICAGO DID NOT IDENTIFY [REDACTED] BY NAME.

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IN ADDITION, SAC CHICAGO ALSO DIRECTED THE
CHICAGO ASAC AND THE CASE AGENT OF THE INCUBATOR CASE
TO CONTACT FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE OFFICER [REDACTED] FL

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AS A RESULT, A MEETING WAS HELD AT THE FORT
LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA RESIDENT AGENCY ON MARCH 4, 1985
ATTENDED BY CHICAGO ASAC [REDACTED] MIAMI
ASAC

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[REDACTED] FORT LAUDERDALE SSRA [REDACTED]
CHICAGO SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] AND FORT
LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA DETECTIVES [REDACTED]

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PAGE FOUR

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AND [REDACTED]

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO SECURE THE CHICAGO FBI INTEREST IN CAPTIONED CASE AND TO EXTEND THE COOPERATION OF THE FBI TO THE FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION INVOLVING [REDACTED]

ACCORDING TO THE FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THESE MURDERS OCCURRED BETWEEN 1974 THROUGH 1977. DURING THIS MEETING THE FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AGREED TO KEEP THE CHICAGO INVESTIGATION CONFIDENTIAL DURING THE COVERT PHASE. THE CHICAGO DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES ADVISED THEY HAD ORIGINATED AN ALL SAC'S TELETYPE REQUESTING INFORMATION ON [REDACTED] TO BE USED BY THE CHICAGO FBI IN REVIEWING THE POSSIBLE DEFENSE MOTIONS IN THE FEDERAL CASE, WHICH MATERIAL WOULD ALSO BE FURNISHED TO THE FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT VIA COMMUNICATION TO THE MIAMI DIVISION CONSISTENT WITH FBI DISSEMINATION POLICY.

CHICAGO'S ASAC ALSO ADVISED THAT HE HAD REQUESTED

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PAGE FIVE

CG 194C-614 SUB O

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FBI HEADQUARTERS TO PREPARE A CORRELATION MEMO REFLECTING RESULTS OF THE REVIEW OF FBI HEADQUARTER FILES CONCERNING

THIS MATERIAL IN THE CORRELATION MEMO WOULD ALSO BE DISSEMINATED TO THE FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE DISSEMINATION GUIDELINES. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT MIAMI COULD XEROX ALL OF THEIR PERTINENT FILES AND DISTRIBUTE THESE FILES TO THE FORT

AUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT FIRST REFERRING THESE FILES TO THE CHICAGO DIVISION. A COPY OF THIS MATERIAL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED TO THE CHICAGO DIVISION AT A LATER DATE.

THE FORT AUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AGREED NOT TO FURNISH ANY OF THE MATERIAL RECEIVED BY THE FBI TO FREE LANCE WRITER GAETON FONZI.

FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ALSO AGREED THAT NO ACTIVE INVESTIGATION WHICH COULD SURFACE THE COVERT CHICAGO FBI INVESTIGATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED PENDING REVIEW OF THE MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY THE FBI AND FURTHER COORDINATION WITH THE FBI.

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 11/4/85

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 (ATTN: MEDIA SERVICES UNIT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION,
 OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
 ROOM 7150, FBIHQ)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (194C-614) (P) (SQUAD 7A)

INCUBATOR
 OO: CHICAGO

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to alert the press office of the possibility of an article, critical of the FBI, appearing in the South Florida Magazine, Miami, Florida on or about 12/31/85.

DETAILS:

3 - Bureau
 (2 - Media Services Unit)
 (1 - [redacted] Public Corruption Unit, Room 3849)
 1 - Miami (Info)
 ② - Chicago
 CER/ds
 (6)

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____
 (Number) (Time)

194C-614-248

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 Per. _____
 FBI - [redacted]

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CG 194C-614

the FBI did take steps in 1977 to determine whether a mutilated body located in Switzerland in August of 1977 was that of [redacted] Investigation in Switzerland, which included the taking of fingerprints and comparisons of dental records, failed to identify the body as that of [redacted]

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Complicating this entire matter is the fact that the South Florida Magazine, Miami, Florida is planning to run an article on [redacted] and the disappearances of at least [redacted] and [redacted] Up until the present time, the magazine, through its Managing Editor [redacted] and the author of the article, Senior Contributor GAETON FONZI, have agreed to postpone publication of the article so as not to interfere with this investigation. On 11/1/85, U.S. Attorney ANTON R. VALUKAS, Northern District of Illinois, advised that on 10/30/85, Acting Attorney General JAY STEPHENS contacted the publisher of the South Florida Magazine and requested that publication of the article be delayed. As a result of this contact, the publisher has agreed to put off publishing the article until 12/31/85.

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CG 194C-614

It is unknown what the article will contain since FONZI and [redacted] have refused to provide the Department of Justice with an advance copy. However, it is assumed by the Chicago Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office that the article [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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If further information concerning [redacted] background is desired, SSA [redacted] Squad 7A, Chicago, can be contacted at Chicago on extension 215.

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MIAMI MAGAZINE
SOUTH FLORIDA

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 140008, Miami, Florida 33114
Street Address: 75 S.W. 15 Road, Miami, Florida 33129
Date: 305-374-5011 Broward: 305-462-8003

MIAMI MAGAZINE
SOUTH FLORIDA

GAETON FONZI
Senior Reporter
305-865-8241
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 140008, Miami, Florida 33114
Street Address: 75 S.W. 15 Road, Miami, Florida 33129
Date: 305-374-5011 Broward 305-462-8003

194c-614-254
no



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MIAMI MAGAZINE
SOUTH FLORIDA

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 140008, Miami, Florida 33114
Street Address: 75 S.W. 15 Road, Miami, Florida 33129
Date: 305-374-5011 Broward: 305-462-8003

MIAMI MAGAZINE
SOUTH FLORIDA

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 140008, Miami, Florida 33114
Street Address: 75 S.W. 15 Road, Miami, Florida 33129
Date: 305-374-5011 Broward 305-462-8003

ISIS ENTRY
YES NO

TO BE
ENTERED: 3/2

ANALYST

no

October 31, 1986

[redacted]
Federal Bureau of Investigation
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear [redacted]

I received a telephone call this morning from [redacted]
[redacted] (phonetic) from Medill School of Journalism at
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He asked me
to participate on December 2, 1986, in a panel discussion
regarding the "Incubator leaks". He advised he had
previously contacted the Office of the United States
Attorney and they refused to participate, but suggested
to him that I might wish to participate. He identified
the other panel members as Gaeton Fonzi, [redacted]
[redacted] from the Chicago Tribune,
and a person not known to me by the name of [redacted].
Needless to say, I turned down the offer.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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LSIS ENTRY
TO BE YES ☒
ENTERED: NO ☐
ANALYST Mes

194C-614-358

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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[redacted]	[redacted]

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page 5
Sun-Times
Chicago, IL

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI probe 'leaks' hit

Date: March 28, 1986
Edition: 5-Star Final

Title: FBI probe 'leaks'
hit

Character:
or Chicago
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

By Larry Weintraub

Top officials of the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office here improperly leaked damaging but unproved information linking public figures in Chicago and New York to corruption, knowing it would be printed, the Chicago Lawyer monthly charges today.

The Chicago Lawyer, an "independent" publication that scrutinizes the local legal scene, said the information was given to a writer for Miami/South Florida magazine

in exchange for a nine-month delay in publication of his article on Michael Raymond, the alleged "mole" in the corruption probe involving public officials in the two cities and Systematic Recovery Service.

The leaked information did surface and "severely and adversely affected the rights of individual citizens who had not been convicted, or even formally accused, of any crime," the Chicago Lawyer editorializes in its April issue. -

The Chicago Lawyer noted that the list of officials, "who have yet

to be indicted (and some of whom may never be indicted)," included the name of Donald Manes, former borough president of Queens in New York. Manes committed suicide after stories containing the leaked material were printed.

The publication said Vincent J. Connelly, chief of the criminal division of the U.S. attorney's office here who has since been promoted to chief of the special prosecutions division, leaked the information during three visits to Miami and may have violated U.S. District

Court and Justice Department rules by doing so. Chicago FBI chief Edward D. Hegarty set up the meetings, the publication said.

U.S. Attorney Anton R. Valukas, Connelly's boss, declined to comment on the article. Valukas said he would respond "at the appropriate time." Hegarty also declined to respond "at this time."

Gaeton Fonzi, the writer, was probing the presumed murders of three Floridians when he discovered they all knew Raymond—alias

George White and Michael Burgett—and that Raymond was a snitch in the Justice Department's Witness Protection Program.

Fonzi wanted information on Raymond's connection to the murders and whether he was being shielded by the government.

Instead, he was given "gratuitous" details of the corruption probes and told his article could endanger the investigation and Raymond's life, said Chicago Lawyer editor Rob Warden.

IO BE ENTERED: ANALYST _____
ISIS ENTRY YES _____ NO _____



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ISIS ENTRY
TO BE YES ☒
ENTERED: NO
ANALYST mea

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194 9618

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[Redacted Box]	

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LEAKS IN U.S. PROBE OF CITY HALL TRACED TO TOP VALUKAS AIDE

By David L. Proteas
and Paul R. McGinn

VINCENT J. CONNELLY, a top assistant to U.S. Attorney Anton R. Valukas, gave a Florida magazine writer secret information about ongoing federal investigations of official corruption in Chicago and New York even though the writer says he told Connelly that he would seek a "national market" for the information.

Indeed, the writer, Gaeton Fonzi, found not one but two national markets for the information. The *Chicago Tribune* and *New York Daily News* each agreed to pay him \$5,000 or more for it.

Connelly leaked the information for the stated purpose of persuading Fonzi and his editors at *MiamiSouth Florida* magazine that an article they were about to print about FBI mole Michael Raymond would jeopardize both the Chicago corruption probe and Raymond's life, according to Fonzi.

Publication of the article, which linked Raymond to the suspected murders of three Floridians and identified him as an FBI informant, was delayed nine months in return for information Connelly provided to Fonzi.

Fonzi was reluctant to discuss precisely what information Connelly gave him. However, F. Gilman Spencer, editor of the *New York Daily News*, who read Fonzi's notes of his discussions with Connelly, told *Chicago Lawyer*:

"Vince Connelly was talking extremely candidly and informally. He gave specific dates and events. I find it interesting that Mr. Connelly's statements to Gaeton Fonzi were a hell of a lot more informal than any on-the-record conversations I've had with prosecutors over the years. Connelly

apparently felt free to say what was on his mind. They were wide-open interviews about what he was investigating. They didn't seem to me to be careful, on-the-record, cover-your-ass kinds of statements. He went much further."

Fonzi agreed that Connelly, who at the time was chief of the criminal litigation section of the U.S. attorney's office and since has been made chief of the special prosecutions division, probably said more than he should have said.

"If you say that he was more candid than he needed to be, obviously, in retrospect, he was," Fonzi told *Chicago Lawyer*. "He never did specifically mention names of politicians to me, but he did get very detailed in later meetings so that anyone who knew Chicago politics could pinpoint people pretty well. In most of the cases with the aidmen, you could pinpoint only a few of them. However, you could pinpoint the department heads and assistant department heads pretty easily from the information."

Fonzi added that Edward D. Hegarty, special agent in charge of the Chicago FBI office, initiated the contact between him and Connelly. Fonzi said he inferred that Hegarty orchestrated the leaks and that Connelly was only a conduit.

"The bureau figured out that if they could leak the story just in terms of the corruption they could overshadow the background of Raymond," Fonzi said.

Fonzi said Connelly confirmed that the FBI was conducting Abram-like investigations into bribery of officials in both Chicago and New York by Systematic Recovery Service, its president, Bernard Sandow, and an employee, Raymond, who also was an FBI mole.

Connelly and Hegarty refused to discuss the alleged leaks with *Chicago Lawyer*, as did U.S. Attorney Valukas. "At the appropriate time I will have something to say, but this is not the appropriate time," said Valukas.

The leaks may violate a U.S. District Court rule which says: "With respect to a grand jury or other pending investigation of any criminal matter, the United States Attorney or any other lawyer for the government participating in or associated with the investigation shall refrain from making any extrajudicial statement which a reasonable person would expect to be disseminated by means of public communication that goes beyond the public record or that is not necessary to inform the public that the investigation is underway, to describe the general scope of the investigation, to obtain assistance in the apprehension of a subject, to warn the public of any dangers or otherwise to aid in the investigation."

The leaks also may violate a Justice Department rule which says: "At no time shall personnel of the Justice Department furnish any statement or information for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a defendant's trial, nor shall personnel of the Department furnish any statement or information which could reasonably be expected to be disseminated by means of public communication if such a statement or information may reasonably be expected to influence the outcome of a pending or future trial."

This Justice Department rule may be waived at the discretion of the attorney general or deputy attorney general, and Fonzi said he assumed that the rule had been waived in this case. "Connelly said he had to get clearance to contact me in the first place," said Fonzi.

Fonzi, senior writer at *MiamiSouth Florida*, said his involvement in the story began in 1984 when he set out to investigate the disappearance of a Fort Lauderdale socialite, Adelaide Ullian Stiles.

(See page 21)

Leaks

from page 11

Fonzi soon discovered that Stiles's disappearance shared a potentially significant element with the disappearances of two other Floridians, Max Hunsard and Anne Sessa. All three knew a man known as Michael Burnett, an alias that the FBI had created for Michael Raymond.

Under the alias George White, Fonzi learned, Raymond had testified in 1971 before the U.S. Senate Permanent Committee on Investigations about his involvement in securities frauds running into the millions of dollars. When the *New York Times* revealed a few days after the testimony that White was really Michael Raymond, the Justice Department put him into its Witness Protection Program and gave him a new identity — Michael Burnett.

From a source, Fonzi said he learned that Raymond had been arrested in 1984 in Nashville for possession of automatic weapons. Fonzi promptly flew to Nashville to check the court records in the case, he said, but the U.S. attorney there, upon learning that Fonzi was looking at the files, immediately obtained a court order impounding them.

However, Fonzi said he pursued his investigation and, by January of last year, had enough information to write an article linking Raymond not only to the presumed deaths of the three Floridians but also to the FBI. Moreover, Fonzi said, he discovered information linking Raymond to swindles while in the Witness Protection Program.

Beginning in January of 1985, Fonzi said, he made a series of calls to the FBI's Miami press spokesman for an official response to what he had found about Raymond. The spokesman at first said he couldn't say anything, according to Fonzi — not even "no comment."

But Fonzi said he was persistent. In mid-February, he said, he called the FBI spokesman and said, "Let's go have a cup of coffee and I'll tell you everything that's in my story." The spokesman listened and, according to Fonzi, said, "That's a damn good story."

The article was then scheduled for publication in *Miami/South Florida's* April issue. But, about a week after the coffee session, the FBI man called the magazine and said that an FBI agent from out of town wanted to talk about the story.



Fonzi

On Monday, February 25, 1985, said Fonzi, Special Agent Hegarty arrived from Chicago. Fonzi said that at a meeting with him, the Miami FBI press spokesman, and the magazine's editorial board — comprising Erica Rauxin, editor, Rick Eyerdam, managing editor, and Sylvan Meyer, publisher — Hegarty asked that the April publication be postponed until July because disclosure of Raymond's involvement with the FBI could jeopardize "an important investigation in Chicago" and endanger the lives of Raymond and other undercover agents.

At the meeting, said Fonzi, the editorial board agreed to withhold publication of the story until July with the understanding that Hegarty would provide something in return: He would arrange a "candid briefing" for Fonzi by Connelly and would attempt to answer specific questions that the magazine wanted answered.

Among the questions, according to managing editor Eyerdam, were:

- Did the FBI have any information proving that Raymond should not be a suspect in the murders of Stiles, Bussard, and Sessa?

- Did the FBI know the fate of Stiles, Bussard, and Sessa?

- Did the FBI prevent a homicide investigation of Raymond because it felt his white collar cases were more important than an investigation of three deaths?

- How much money had Raymond stolen while in the employ of the FBI?

- Would persons swindled by Raymond be compensated by the FBI?

Eyerdam told *Chicago Lawyer* that "there was a general consensus" that the delay was worth it to the magazine because the information Hegarty agreed to provide would improve the article and there was little chance that another publication could get the story.

The magazine, said Fonzi, also extracted a promise from Hegarty that the FBI would turn over all of its files on Raymond to Florida law enforcement authorities to help in their investigation of the three missing persons — a promise that Fonzi says Hegarty honored.

Fonzi said that Hegarty memorialized the February 25 agreement in a letter dated March 1 and addressed to Rauxin, the editor of *Miami/South Florida*. Hegarty wrote:

"It was ... agreed that I on or about May 15, 1985, or earlier, would arrange for you and Mr. Fonzi to be given a frank and candid briefing by Assistant U.S. Attorney Vince Connelly, Northern District of Illinois. It was also agreed that the FBI would attempt to resolve some unanswered questions regarding a particular person of interest to Mr. Fonzi and your magazine."

After some preliminary telephone calls, Fonzi said, Connelly visited the magazine on Monday, May 6, 1985, to meet with the editorial board and Fonzi. At the meeting, which Fonzi said was tape-recorded with Connelly's knowledge, Connelly provided

certain details about the Chicago investigation in which Raymond was involved and asked that the magazine further delay publication of the article.

The editorial board agreed, according to Fonzi, to postpone publication until September on Connelly's promise that further information would be provided.

Connelly, according to Eyerdam, seemed less than thrilled about what he was doing. "He announced with a caveat that he shouldn't be here and didn't want to be here," Eyerdam said. "He said, 'I can't help it, but this is a very important investigation. I don't think anything quite like this has been done before.'"

Shortly after the May meeting, Connelly wrote a letter on behalf of U.S. Attorney Valukas to Rauxin. The letter said, "I am confident the actions being taken by all parties concerned are in the best interests of both the citizens of the United States and the journalism profession."

Fonzi said he and Connelly were in weekly and sometimes daily telephone contact after that.

In August, according to Fonzi, Connelly flew to Miami for a second tape-recorded meeting, this one with Fonzi alone at Miami International Airport. Connelly provided further details about the Chicago investigation, although still not the details Fonzi wanted concerning Raymond's criminal career as a federally protected witness.

Publication of the article was again postponed at Connelly's request and upon Connelly's promise that the Raymond information could be provided later, Fonzi said. The article was rescheduled for the magazine's December issue.

However, on October 31, Sylvan Meyer, the publisher of *Miami/South Florida*, (see following page)

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Leaks

(from preceding page)

received a telephone call from Associate Deputy U.S. Attorney General Jay B. Stephens in Washington.

Stephens, according to Meyer, agreed to provide the information the magazine wanted on Raymond if publication could be delayed until the January issue. Meyer agreed to delay publication. "I didn't want to be in the position that it looked like I was in collusion with the federal government when there was no emergency," he told *Chicago Lawyer*. "But as a patriotic citizen, I believed we had a duty to hold it up."

Connelly flew to Miami for another face-to-face meeting with Fonzi and the *Miami/South Florida* editorial board in early November. The meeting also was attended by the magazine's attorney, Alan Rosenthal.

Once again, Connelly wanted to delay publication, according to various persons present, but this time everyone said no.

As November drew on, Connelly made repeated telephone pleas for the magazine to hold the story. As a result, Meyer said, he called Stephens in late November and told him: "We had an understanding and now your Chicago people are leaning on our staff. I want you just to call off the dogs."

Stephens, according to Meyer, replied: "You're absolutely right. We have an agreement and we're going to stick with it."

A few days later, Meyer said, the magazine received a six-page letter from Hegarty with the FBI's responses to the questions he had agreed to answer seven months earlier. The letter said that the

FBI lacked "sufficient information" to link Raymond to the three disappearances "by even a preponderance of the available evidence, much less the standard that would apply in order to seek a successful prosecution."

The letter added that Raymond had not "either knowingly or inadvertently" given the FBI "any information which is probative regarding the disappearances."

Hegarty's response angered Fonzi. "I don't think the FBI did look into the background of Raymond and these people, who he did murder," Fonzi said. "Hegarty says there's no evidence linking Raymond to the murders. That's just ridiculous."

A few days before *Miami/South Florida's* January issue went to press, FBI agents began questioning the Chicago targets of the investigation.

"On December 20," said 20th Ward Alderman Clifford F. Kelley, "two FBI agents came to visit me. It was an unannounced visit. They asked a few questions about what I knew about other aldermen and their relationship to Systematic Recovery. I wasn't concerned because the questions were not about me. They did not try to flip me. I had to leave in order to have a meeting with the mayor. They told me to call them later. I tried to call them, but they weren't in. In the meantime, I heard from another alderman that we were all visited at the same time and that I was a target of the investigation. I never returned their calls after that."

On December 23, the January issue of *Miami/South Florida* rolled off the press. The headline on Fonzi's story said, in all capitals, "THE UNTOUCHABLE." A sub-headline said of Raymond, "He's a dangerous man, a clever man, and he is blowing the lid off corruption in Chicago as a protected FBI informant. South Florida police say he may also be responsible for the murders of three local people."

Miami/South Florida thus scored a major scoop — the first public disclosure of the Chicago corruption investigation — thanks to the information provided by Connelly and Hegarty.

The story first broke in Chicago on Christmas Day in both the *Sun-Times* and *Tribune*.

About that time, Fonzi said, he contacted Spencer, the *New York Daily News* editor whom he had known years earlier when they both worked in Philadelphia.

For what Spencer said was "in excess of \$5,000," to be paid in four equal payments, Fonzi agreed to provide information on the New York investigation for the *Daily News*. But the Justice Department, as it had done with *Miami/South Florida*, successfully lobbied the *Daily News* to delay publication for several days.

"They begged us to hold off a couple of days so that we wouldn't jeopardize their investigation," Spencer said. "We only agreed to hold off for three or four days. Then we ran it just as we had it."

The story broke in the *Daily News* on January 7 under a blaring front page headline: "SLAY SUSPECT DEALS FOR FBI."

Spencer told *Chicago Lawyer*, "The information Fonzi got from Vince Connelly before the *Miami/South Florida* piece ran allowed him to tie Raymond to Bernie Sandow and Systematic Recovery.... That tie allowed us to do our January 7 blowout on Burnett with his New York connections. We were the lead dog in New York because of the information that Fonzi was able to give us. If it hadn't been for his information, it wouldn't have been as big a scandal."

Two days after the *Daily News* story appeared, Queens Borough President Donald R. Manes attempted to kill himself. He failed, but a second attempt was successful.

On January 10, Fonzi and Jack Davis, metro editor of the *Tribune*, reached an agreement under which Fonzi would begin working as a *Tribune* stringer on January 16. Fonzi was paid \$2,000 up front and promised \$760 per month for February through May.

Before signing the *Tribune* agreement, Fonzi turned down a reported offer of \$1,500 from the *Sun-Times*.

Notes at the end of major stories that the *Tribune* published January 19 and 20 on Raymond listed Fonzi as one of several contributors to the stories.

"Basically, we took a lot of information from him, but we didn't use any of it without verifying it from other sources," said *Tribune* metro editor Davis. "The bulk of the work was done by our own people, practically all of this work in fact."

Leaks were not Fonzi's exclusive province. The *Tribune*, as well as most other media, apparently was the beneficiary of a number of leaks that had nothing to do with Fonzi.

For instance, the *Tribune's* December 26 story on the investigation quoted "one source close to the case" who said, "It's going to be the case of 1986." A January 3 *Tribune* story attributed information to "government sources." A January 10 story reported "new details of the case" provided by "government officials" in Washington and Chicago.

"There were enough prosecution leaks," declared William J. Martin, a former prosecutor and attorney for one target of the investigation, "to sink a navy."

Fonzi said there is no question in his mind that Connelly knew that information would be published in Chicago before the investigation was completed.

"He had to know because I told him specifically that I was looking for national markets," Fonzi said. "I was upfront with him all the way on this. There was no reason for me not to be."

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Slay case corners Burnett the rat

By BARBARA ROSS

Daily News Staff Writer

For 33 years, Michael Burnett bargained his way out of a lifetime in jail by helping law enforcement authorities collar other bad guys in exchange for leniency.

Last week, for the first time in his life, the Brooklyn-born mole who broke the corruption scandals in New York and Chicago was hit with a non-negotiable charge: first-degree murder.

"My commitment is to see that Michael (Burnett) will be sittin' in Old Sparky some day. I would like to see him go there without passing Go, collecting \$200 or any other benefits from the FBI," said Capt. Al Ortenzo of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

Ortenzo's fervor is understandable

Woman disappears

It took Florida police 11 years to find out what happened to Adelaide Stiles, a 70-year-old woman who disappeared after getting suspicious about how Burnett, who had romanced her, invested her life savings of \$40,000.

Tuesday, they charged Burnett and two others with feeding Stiles to the sharks, and now prosecutors are studying whether to charge Burnett with a second murder: Anne Sessa, a Florida widow who disappeared in 1977 after having an affair with Burnett and investing the bulk of her estate with him.

Both cases were dormant until earlier this year when

the Daily News and reporter Gaeton Fonzi in South Florida magazine published articles on Burnett, who has been arrested 27 times and convicted nine times on charges ranging from stock fraud to bribery.

Served eight years

He has served a mere eight years in jail because, until now, he wriggled out of serving more time by offering to rat on others.

The articles questioned the FBI's ethics in using Burnett as a mole when he was suspected of murdering Stiles, Sessa and a third Floridian.

They also reported that Florida cops felt the FBI shielded Burnett for years because he was making major federal cases and had joined the Witness Protection Program, in which he changed his name from Michael Raymond to Michael Burnett.

When the stories broke, Burnett was again an FBI operative. He'd been arrested in Tennessee in July 1984 but got leniency in return for helping to expose New York and Chicago officials taking bribes from the head of a collection agency.

FBI defends using him

When the Burnett controversy broke, the FBI defended using him. "Whether it's right or wrong, people who have been accused of murder or even convicted of murder have been used as informants," said Paul Miller of the FBI's Miami office.

The FBI denied it ever stymied Florida investigators and vowed to help with the renewed probe, turning over reams of material that provided fresh leads and disclosed other crimes Burnett was suspected of committing.

Last week, even after Burnett was charged with murder, the FBI said simply, "We're aware of the guy's background. We've used hit men and organized crime figures to testify against other hit men and other organized crime figures."

Others disagree with the FBI's priorities.

William Heffernan, an ethics specialist at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said Burnett's murder charge makes it more compelling for the FBI to explain why it used a suspected murderer to catch criminals accused of lesser crimes. He also called for a congressional inquiry.

"Could the FBI have achieved the same results

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with some other mole? Should the FBI draw up some guidelines to determine what's an acceptable tradeoff? This is something for (Rep. Peter) Rodino's (House Judiciary) committee," Heffernan said.

"You don't work effectively by using Sunday school teachers" in criminal investigations, Ortenzo acknowledges. But, he said, when an informant is "very clearly implicated" in a homicide, the murder investigation should take top priority.

Tenacity and luck

The story of the Stiles and Sessa cases is one of police tenacity and luck, and the extent of the FBI's cooperation is still a matter of debate.

Fort Lauderdale detective Gary Ciani said the cases were "probably the most frustrating" because "everywhere you went witnesses were either dead or had had a stroke. Papers were destroyed. Buildings were leveled.

"You realized you had to depend on people, people who get pretty confident about their stories after 11 years," he said.

Ciani said he, Detective John Palmer of the Broward County sheriff's office and Jack Lovell, an investigator for the local prosecutor, spent their first weeks going over old ground.

Interview witnesses

They found witnesses who saw Stiles and Burnett leave together on a vacation, re-established the motive (her checking account drained into a Burnett company) and interviewed people who had known the couple in 1975.

Ciani said Burnett's secretary, Barbara Bishop, told them that in 1975, on her boss' orders, she checked into a Holiday Inn, posing as Stiles. That gave Burnett an alibi: that he left Stiles at the motel and never saw her again.

Robert Johnstone, Burnett's gofer in 1975, refused to talk after Burnett's attorney, William Aronwald, "ordered us out of the house," Ciani said.

A buddy testifies

Police say another Burnett buddy, Ralph Rapp, provided more details: Stiles was thrown over the side of a boat, and Sessa was "under a rock."

Ciani said detectives figured that if Burnett had told Rapp about the murders, "he could have told others." They concentrated on interviewing people named in the FBI's Burnett files.

One of the names was Vernon Raye Frazier, who is charged with Stiles' murder, along with Johnstone and Burnett.

The cops discovered that Frazier had set Burnett up for the Tennessee arrest after he got cold feet about going through with an armed burglary of a wealthy businessman's house.

On March 26, Ciani said, police asked the FBI where Frazier was. They were told Frazier was believed to be somewhere in California and that federal marshals wanted him for a parole violation.

Under federal detainer

What the FBI didn't say—and it's unclear why—is that almost six weeks earlier, the marshals had found Frazier in a San Diego jail where they put him under a federal detainer. That meant Frazier would go into federal custody as soon he finished serving time on a state charge of passing bad checks.

"I'm not saying the FBI was trying to hide him. I don't know why they didn't know where he was. All I know is that we did an intense search for him and turned up empty," Ciani said.

Florida cops discovered Frazier's whereabouts accidentally on June 2 when the Chicago Tribune ran a jailhouse interview in which Frazier said Burnett had bragged about committing several murders.

Ciani said that in August, after several interviews with police, Frazier admitted he'd actually been an eyewitness to the Stiles murder. He "broke down and cried. It was a major breakthrough," Ciani said.

Fort Lauderdale cops began a complicated, monthlong battle to get custody of Frazier. They were desperate to get him before his San Diego jail term ended in mid-September because if the marshals got him first, Florida police would need a subpoena to get him out of federal custody. Legally, that would mean giving Frazier full immunity.

"I thought there was more they (the FBI) could do to assist us in producing Frazier," said Ortenzo. Without that help, he and Ciani got Frazier on Sept. 4, just as the marshals were in the jail processing paperwork to hold him.

"I kept looking for the marshals at the airport. As the plane went down the runway, we both looked out the window with a sigh of relief that we weren't being stopped," Ortenzo recalled.

On Sept. 8, police said they got another shock: Frazier now confessed that he hadn't just seen the murder, he'd participated in it with Burnett and Johnstone.

"We tried to trip him up several ways" to make sure he was telling the truth, but he passed every test, Ciani said.

Frazier is expected to cooperate in exchange for a second-degree murder conviction, which means life in prison instead of the possible death penalty that Burnett faces.

"I think we have a pretty good case. We have the witnesses, the motive," said Ciani.

Burnett is now in a federal penitentiary, coping with a bad heart and troublesome liver. The only thing that may give out before the cops is his health.

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An old woman & the sea

Burnett compatriot describes slaying of Adelaide Stiles

By GAETON FONZI

Special to the Daily News

World-class swindler Michael Burnett calmly lit a cigar as the small cabin cruiser cut the waters south of Miami off the Florida Keys. Allegedly, it was the signal for murder.

Within minutes, Adelaide Stiles, a large, frumpy woman with hair dyed pitch-black, would be dead, her head bashed in by the swing of a tire iron and her body dismembered and chummed overboard for the sharks.

That is the account of Vernon Frazier, 34, a husky ex-Marine who has confessed to participating in Stiles' murder with Burnett and Robert (Bobby Dell) Johnstone, a boat captain from Port Orange, Fla. Based on a jailhouse interview, it is told here for the first time publicly.

"When Michael lit the cigar I kind of froze for a second," recalls Frazier. "Then for some strange reason I snapped right out of it and moved quickly to get the tire iron we put hidden next to the sink. Michael had sat Stiles where her back was to me and he was keepin' her attention by talkin'."

"I just blocked everything out of my mind and concentrated on her neck area. They told me in the

first time on the left side of the head. Then I hit her again. It was real quick, like bam! bam! When I hit her the second time she fell out of the chair. She was lookin' up at Michael as she went down and her eyes were like in a sort of shock.

"To this day I think I can hear her say, 'Why, Michael?' but I know I was probably imaginin' it. It was just her life breath goin' out of her."

A 33-year history of crime

Frazier's story provides a chilling look at the murder in 1975 of one woman—an easy victim who was trusting, eccentric and lonely. It also gives an insight into the allegedly murderous side of Michael Burnett, a notorious con man who has continuously been protected by the FBI.

Burnett has a 33-year history of stock swindles, forgery, bribery and other crimes, but time and again escaped long jail sentences by becoming a mole for the FBI.

When Stiles was murdered, Burnett was in the federal Witness Protection Program. His true name, in fact, was Michael Raymond. The feds changed it after he testified in 1971 before a Senate subcommittee investigating organized crime.

In his latest incarnation, Burnett was used by the FBI as a sting man who taped key conversations in a lengthy investigation that helped uncover the city corruption scandal and led to indictments of Chicago officials.

At the time, Florida police listed Burnett as the prime suspect in the murder of Stiles and two others. All had been conned by Burnett. All had invested money with him. All disappeared without a trace.

Met in Detroit

Frazier says he met Burnett in 1974 in Detroit. At the time, Frazier

was working for an organized crime family in Michigan as a runner carrying gambling profits, counterfeit money and stolen securities between Detroit, Chicago, New York and Canada. He says he also transported stolen stocks for Burnett.

Frazier claims Burnett was anxious to work him into his organization. Frazier had some college education, was trained in the Marines and was an associate minister and preacher at the Second Baptist Church in his hometown of Monroe, Mich.

Recalls Frazier: "Michael told me, 'If you can convince people to believe in God, then you can convince anybody of anything.'"

Frazier says when Burnett called him to come to Florida he told him he had "a small problem with some old bitch."

"I admired Michael's life style, the way he dressed, how he talked, the way he maneuvered among important business people," Frazier remembers. "And I figured the only way that me, a black guy, would get the same respect and prestige he had, was for me to get into his tight circle."

"When he asked me to come to

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Public Affs. _____
Rec. Mgmt. _____
Tech. Servs. _____
Training _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

EXCLUSIVE

Marines not to aim for the head because if the head moves, you miss. And I didn't want to miss, I wanted to make sure I hit her ... and ... and ..."

Frazier pauses and stares for a moment.

"... and I just hit her. I hit her the

The Washington Post _____
The Washington Times _____
Daily News (New York) P. 7
The New York Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The Chicago Tribune _____
The Los Angeles Times _____
The Christian Science Monitor _____
USA Today _____

Date 12-21-86

Florida to murder that old lady, my first reaction was I was honored he thought enough of me to invite me down here on this occasion."

Frazier also remembers thinking, "It's a golden opportunity."

Frazier says Burnett told him that Stiles, 66, was pressing him to explain how he was investing the money she gave him, estimated to be at least \$40,000. Although Stiles loved him, Burnett told Frazier, he learned that her friends were urging her to have police check out his background.

"That would have brought his whole empire down," says Frazier, "because he had dozens of other scams going on the side."

At the time, Burnett was renting the seven-bedroom waterfront home of Fort Lauderdale drug kingpin Ken Burnstine, who recently had been arrested.

Frazier earlier visited Burnett in Florida and was familiar with Burnett's ongoing con of Stiles, a woman who was well-known socially but had grown increasingly lonely and eccentric as she grew older.

Then she met Burnett. "God must love me, having me meet my Mike at this particular time," she wrote to a friend.

According to Frazier, Burnett planned the murder in detail with him and Bobby Johnstone the evening before. Burnett had earlier told Stiles he would join her on a trip to London. Now he would suggest that they take a leisurely cruise to help him unwind from "business pressures" before departing from Miami.

A toast to murder

Frazier describes the boat as a small cabin cruiser that Johnstone captained and kept docked behind the house.

After their planning session, Frazier says, Burnett took him and Johnstone to the Mai-Kai, a popular, crowded Fort Lauderdale nightclub where they had dinner, toasted their murder plans and watched the Polynesian dancing girls.

The next morning, Burnett, a gourmet cook, fixed them a hearty breakfast and then left to pick up Stiles. Meanwhile, Frazier and Johnstone loaded concrete blocks, bricks, a hacksaw, an ax and plastic bags aboard the boat. When Burnett returned, he asked Frazier, who pretended to be his houseboy, to help unload Stiles' luggage from the car.

"I was watchin' Michael be all lovey-dovey with her as she's gettin' out of the car," Frazier recalls, "and I was laughin' to myself inside because I know this man don't care nothin' about this lady and in a few hours he's gonna make her a dead old lady."

Still, Frazier now says, as the boat headed out from Port Everglades and

down the Florida coast, and as he watched Burnett ply Stiles with sweet talk and martinis in the cabin below, he began having second thoughts.

"She wasn't attractive, by a long shot," he says, "and here she's thinkin' she finally found somebody who loved her. I started feelin' sorry for the woman. I suddenly didn't want to kill her."

'Too far into the game'

Frazier says he reported his feeling to Johnstone, who was at the wheel on the bridge. "Bobby told me, 'Well, Vernon, you're too far into the game now,'" Frazier recalls. "He says, 'If you don't do it, we're gonna do it, and then we're gonna get rid of you.'"

Later Frazier saw Johnstone put the boat on automatic pilot and go below to whisper to Burnett. Shortly, Burnett soothed Frazier.

"I understand what you're goin' through," Frazier says Burnett told him. "He says, 'Don't worry about it. Just put your feelings aside and concentrate on what you're gonna do. And stay out of the cabin for a while so you'll get some fresh air and won't have to listen to the bull I'm throwin' at her.'"

Soon Frazier's misgivings turned to a sense of impending excitement.

"It was kind of like before a football game," recalls Frazier, who was a star running back on his high school team. "You feel your adrenaline gettin' built up because you know you're gonna be on center stage."

The prearranged signal for action, according to Frazier, came when Burnett lit a cigar as the boat moved into the less crowded waters of Hawk Channel off the Keys. Frazier wielded the tire iron.

Then, Frazier says, both he and Burnett stood motionless for a moment, staring down at the crumpled heap of Adelaide Stiles. "Then Bobby came down from the bridge and Michael said, 'Let's get this over with,' and we moved into action."

They used a hacksaw and an ax to dismember the body. "Michael wanted to make sure we opened her up enough so that the sharks would get to her all," Frazier says.

The parts were put in plastic garbage bags and what was left of the body was lifted out of the cabin and draped over the side of the boat. A cinder block was tied to the torso.

"Then Michael handed me his 9-mm. gun and told me to shoot her in the head," apparently to open every part of the body to the sharks. Frazier says "He said careful not to shoot the boat or else all of us would never get back. I shot her carefully twice in the head."

Gaston Fonzi is a Florida-based investigative reporter who broke the story of the FBI's relationship with master con man Michael Burnett. Fonzi revealed that the FBI used Burnett as an undercover mole in a Chicago corruption probe even though Burnett was a suspect in three murders. Federal authorities also used Burnett to secretly tape record a conversation here that played a key role in exposing the Parking Violations Bureau scandal. Based on an exclusive interview with a confessed killer, Fonzi now tells the story of one of Burnett's alleged murders.

After the boat was turned around and the automatic pilot set at trolling speed, the three men retrieved the plastic bags from the cabin and slowly dumped the body parts over the transom. As the boat drifted north, Frazier looked back and saw the water begin to pop with splashes of fish in a feeding frenzy.

"On the way back," Frazier recalls, "Michael told me I did a real good job and that I had to remember the first one is the hardest. He said after you get your first murder under your belt, the next one is easier."

Back at the house in Fort Lauderdale, Frazier says, Burnett paid him \$10,000 and told him he now considered him part of his inner circle. "I felt a real sense of satisfaction," Frazier now admits. "It was like any good job you do, you pat yourself on the back. And I was proud that I did such a good job for Michael. He was my idol."

Then Burnett broke out a bottle of good red wine and the three men toasted the successful completion of Adelaide Stiles' murder.

Frazier, who recently pleaded guilty to the Stiles murder, told his story in an interview arranged by his attorney, Public Defender Steven Michaelson.

Burnett and Johnstone were indicted on first-degree murder charges in Florida on Sept. 30. The case was built on Frazier's word and other evidence gathered by Fort Lauderdale homicide Detective Gary Ciani and state attorney investigator Jack Lovell.

But local officials have yet to extricate Burnett from the clutches of federal authorities, who consider him a valuable asset in their political corruption cases in Chicago.

Index Page, name of Pg. 26
 newspaper, city and state Chicago Sun-Time:
 Chicago, IL

Date: May 18, 1987
 Edition: 5 Star Final

Title: Prosecutor times it
 right

Character:
 or
 Classification:
 Submitting Office: Chicago

Prosecutor times it right

Connelly meets double deadline

By Adrienne Drell

Vincent J. Connelly has never missed a deadline.

And he is keeping his record intact.

Connelly, 36, chief of the special prosecutions division, managed to complete final details on the massive 122-page indictment of former mayoral aide Clarence McClain and eight others exactly one day before leaving his job Friday.

By beating the deadline, the architect of the Operation Incubator investigation also complied with a federal judge's directive to indict McClain by today or explain why not.

Today, Connelly becomes a partner at the law firm of Mayer Brown & Platt, where he will specialize in litigation.

"It's sad but exciting to contemplate the new challenges," said Connelly, a tall, dapper prosecutor known for his charm and persua-

Vincent J. Connelly

New job: Connelly today becomes a partner at the law firm of Mayer Brown & Platt.

Previous job: Chief of special prosecutions division, U.S. attorney's office for the northern district of Illinois. He has spent the last 11 years in the prosecutor's office. His most visible achievement has been guiding the Operation Incubator investigation.

Vital statistics: Age, 36; born in Chicago and reared on the South Side; attended St. Patrick High School, 5900 W. Belmont; married with two children; undergraduate degree from Notre Dame University; 1975 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School; known for his charm and ability to persuade juries.



siveness before a jury.

During his 11 years in the prosecutor's office, Connelly, a 1975 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, has tried many complicated stock fraud cases and pioneered the use of racketeering statutes to convict owners of several South Side beauty schools.

But his most visible achievement has been shepherding the municipal investigation with the catchy

Operation Incubator title. It has resulted in the indictments of 15 people here, five of whom have been convicted.

Connelly worked closely with the FBI and Internal Revenue Service in its undercover procedures, tape-recording secret meetings among government informant Michael Raymond, politicians and influential businessmen. Connelly spent nights reviewing videotapes of the clandestine meetings.

It was Connelly who flew to Florida in 1985 to plead with magazine reporter Gaeton Fonzi not to publish a story about Raymond that would have jeopardized the ongoing investigation.

Once the project was revealed in December, 1985, Connelly and his boss, U.S. Attorney Anton R. Valukas, refused to comment. But they were severely criticized for leaking information on unnamed figures. Valukas explained that Fonzi had sold his materials to the Tribune Co. McClain filed several lawsuits alleging his constitutional rights were being violated. Most of the suits were dismissed.

Asked how he managed to synchronize his departure with Thursday's indictments, Connelly laughed and said, "Timing is everything."

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 YES NO
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FM CHICAGO (194C-614) (P) (SQ 7B)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

ATTENTION: [REDACTED] WHITE COLLAR CRIME
SECTION, AND [REDACTED] IDENT
DIVISION, AND [REDACTED] NCIC SECT.

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

ATTENTION: SA [REDACTED] NASHVILLE RA

BT

UNCLAS

INCUBATOR, OO: CHICAGO.

RE CHICAGO TELCAL TO FBIHQ, IDENT, NCIC AND WCC
SECTION NOVEMBER 20, 1984, AND CHICAGO TELCAL TO
NASHVILLE, NOVEMBER 20, 1984.

AS DETAILED IN THE RE TELCALS, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Squad #7-P
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Squad #16

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PAGE TWO

CG 194C-614

UNCLAS

ON NOVEMBER 20, 1984, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ADVISED TELEPHONICALLY THAT A
FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA POLICE OFFICER AND A BROWARD COUNTY
INVESTIGATOR CONTACTED HIM RE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RELATED THAT THESE OFFICERS (NAMES UNKNOWN) WERE
WORKING WITH A NOVELIST OR WRITER NAMED GAYTON FONZI.
APPARENTLY FONZI IS INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT [REDACTED]
WAS INVOLVED IN THE STRANGULATION MURDERS OF TWO ELDERLY
FEMALES IN BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, (EXACT DETAILS UNKNOWN).
ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE MURDERS OCCURRED IN THE 1970'S, THE
OFFICERS DID NOT FURNISH HIM WITH ANY DETAILS.

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[REDACTED] TOLD THE OFFICERS HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO
RELEASE ANY INFORMATION RE [REDACTED] OTHER THAN THE FACT
THAT [REDACTED] WAS WORKING WITH A NEW YORK DEBT COLLECTION
FIRM. [REDACTED] DID NOT GIVE THE OFFICERS ANY OTHER INFORMATION.

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PAGE THREE

CG 194C-614

UNCLAS .

FBI IDENT AND NCIC ARE DETERMINING THE NATURE AND ORIGIN
OF ANY REQUESTS FOR [REDACTED] CHICAGO WILL ADVISE
NASHVILLE IMMEDIATELY IF THE IDENT DIVISION HAS FORWARDED

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] TO THE FLORIDA AUTHORITIES
WORKING WITH FONZI. CHICAGO AND NASHVILLE (PER THE RE
TEL CAL) AGREE NOT TO CONTACT ANY LOCAL AUTHORITIES RE
QUESTIONS FROM FLORIDA OFFICERS RE [REDACTED]

IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE IDENT SECTION AND NCIC DETERMINE
THE ORIGIN OF ANY INQUIRYS RE [REDACTED] SINCE JULY 4,
1984, AND FURNISH THIS INFORMATION TO CHICAGO.

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
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PRECEDENCE:

☒ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
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Date 11/20/84

21 Nov 84 13 48

FM CHICAGO (194C-614) (P) (SQ 7B)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE — 1955

ATTENTION: [REDACTED] WHITE COLLAR CRIME

SECTION, AND [REDACTED] IDENT

DIVISION, AND [REDACTED] NCIC SECT.

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE — 1955

ATTENTION: SA [REDACTED] NASHVILLE RA

BT

UNCLAS

INCUBATOR, OO: CHICAGO.

RE CHICAGO TELCAL TO FBIHQ, IDENT, NOVEMBER

20, 1984, AND CHICAGO TELCAL TO NASHVILLE, NOVEMBER

20, 1984.

AS DETAILED IN THE RETELCAL
 ON NOVEMBER 20, 1984,

[REDACTED] ADVISED

TELEPHONICALLY THAT A FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

POLICE OFFICER AND A BROWARD COUNTY INVESTIGATOR

CONTACTED HIM RE [REDACTED]

AWB/jaa

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☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO

CG 194C-614

UNCLAS

[] RELATED THAT THESE OFFICERS (NAMES UNKNOWN) WERE WORKING WITH A NOVELIST OR WRITER NAMED GAYTON FONZI. APPARENTLY FONZI IS INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT [] WAS INVOLVED IN THE STRANGULATION MURDERS OF TWO ELDERLY FEMALES IN BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, (EXACT DETAILS UNKNOWN). ACCORDING TO [] THE MURDERS OCCURRED IN THE 1970'S, THE OFFICERS DID NOT FURNISH HIM WITH ANY DETAILS.

[] TOLD THE OFFICERS HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO RELEASE ANY INFORMATION RE [] OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT [] WAS WORKING WITH A NEW YORK DEBT COLLECTION FIRM. [] DID NOT GIVE THE OFFICERS ANY OTHER INFORMATION.

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PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
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CLASSIFICATION:

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Date _____

PAGE THREE

CG 194C-614

UNCLAS

ADD NCIC
 FBI IDENT ~~IS~~ *ARE* DETERMINING THE NATURE AND ORIGIN OF
 ANY REQUESTS FOR [REDACTED] CHICAGO WILL ADVISE
 NASHVILLE IMMEDIATELY IF THE IDENT DIVISION HAS FORWARDED
 [REDACTED] TO THE FLORIDA AUTHORITIES
 WORKING WITH FONZI. CHICAGO AND NASHVILLE (PER THE RE
 TELCAL) AGREE NOT TO CONTACT ANY LOCAL AUTHORITIES RE
 QUESTIONS FROM FLORIDA OFFICERS RE [REDACTED]

~~ARMED AND DANGEROUS~~

BT *IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE IDENT, SECT*
AND NCIC DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF
ANY INQUIRIES RE [REDACTED] SINCE 7/4/84
AND FURNISH THIS INFO TO CG.
 [REDACTED]

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- ☐ TOP SECRET
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Date

1/14/85

FM CHICAGO (194C-614) (P) (SQUAD 7B)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY — 0031

ATTENTION: SSA [REDACTED]

PUBLIC CORRUPTION UNIT

WHITE COLLAR CRIMES SECTION

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

MIAMI PRIORITY — 0009

ATTENTION: SSRA [REDACTED]

FT. LAUDERDALE RA

MEMPHIS (INFO) PRIORITY — 0015

ATTENTION: SA [REDACTED]

NASHVILLE RA

BT

UNCLAS

INCUBATOR; OO: CHICAGO.

RE CHICAGO TELCALL TO FT. LAUDERDALE RA, JANUARY 10,
 1985 AND CHICAGO TELETYPE TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER 30, 1984.

AWB:mlb

(1) *mlb*

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Date _____

PAGE TWO

CG 194C-614

UNCLAS

DURING NOVEMBER OF 1984, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT A FT.

LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA HOMICIDE INVESTIGATOR NAMED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS COLLECTING EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT

[REDACTED] HAD COMMITTED TWO MURDERS (DETAILS UNKNOWN).

[REDACTED] IS ALLEGEDLY WORKING WITH A NOVELIST NAMED GAYTON FONZIE, WHO IS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT THE MURDERS AND

[REDACTED] WHEN CHICAGO WAS GIVEN THIS INFORMATION, BOTH IDENT, AND NCIC WERE REQUESTED TO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBIHQ WAS NOTIFIED

BY REFERENCED COMMUNICATION.

ON JANUARY 8, 1985, [REDACTED] ADVISED FBI, CHICAGO, THAT

[REDACTED] HAD VISITED HIM PERSONALLY INDICATING HE DETERMINED

THAT [REDACTED]

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PRECEDENCE: FBI CLASSIFICATION:

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- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 1/30/85

FM CHICAGO (194C-614) (P) (SQ.7B)

TO DIRECTOR (194-419) PRIORITY 1700

MIAMI (194C-318) (WCC-2) (FLRA) PRIORITY 1650

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: [REDACTED] WHITE COLLAR CRIME

SECTION, ROOM 3853

INCUBATOR, OO:CHICAGO.

RE DIRECTOR TELETYPE TO CHICAGO, JANUARY 23, 1985.
 RE TELCAL TO FBIHQ DATED JANUARY 22, 1985, CHICAGO AIRTEL
 TO DIRECTOR, DATED JANUARY 9, 1985, CHICAGO TELETYPES TO
 DIRECTOR, DATED JANUARY 15, 16, AND 19, 1985, AND MIAMI
 TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, DATED JANUARY 18, 1985.

FOR INFORMATION OF MIAMI, THE REFERENCED TELETYPES
 TO DIRECTOR DATED JANUARY 15, 16, 18, 19, 1985, DEAL
 WITH [REDACTED]

AWB:qss

194C-614 sub G - 123
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Approved: [Signature]

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Date _____

PAGE TWO

CG 194C-614

UNCLAS

AND 1976. WHILE FBIHQ SUPPORTS FULL COOPERATION WITH THE FT. LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT (FLPD) REGARDING THE MURDER INVESTIGATIONS, IT IS NOTED THAT IN THE MIAMI TELETYPE TO THE DIRECTOR, DETECTIVE [REDACTED] FLPD, ADVISED THAT HIS INTEREST IN THE HERETOFORE DORMANT HOMICIDE INVESTIGATIONS HAD BEEN REKINDLED BY FREE-LANCE WRITER GAETEN FONZIE. ACCORDING TO REFERENCED TELETYPE FROM DIRECTOR, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE FLPD WAS QUESTIONED REGARDING WHAT EVIDENCE HAD BEEN DEVELOPED REGARDING THESE MURDERS AND SPECIFICALLY WHAT EVIDENCE TIED [REDACTED] TO THE MURDERS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE IF THE FBI'S ATTEMPT TO COOPERATE WITH THE FLPD WILL FURTHER THE MURDER INVESTIGATION OR ASSIST FONZIE IN WRITING HIS ARTICLE. PRIOR TO PROVIDING FT. LAUDERDALE WITH THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE FLPD, FBIHQ HAS REQUESTED THAT CHICAGO DETERMINE WHAT EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE WHICH CONNECTS [REDACTED] WITH THE MURDERS AND WHY DETECTIVE [REDACTED] WISHES TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] MIAMI IS REQUESTED TO FURNISH DETAILS AS REQUESTED BY FBIHQ VIA TELETYPE TO FBIHQ AND CHICAGO.

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CHICAGO
23 JAN 1985

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FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI CHICAGO (194C-614) PRIORITY

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INCUBATOR. OO: CHICAGO.

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REG CCAL TO FBIHQ ON JANUARY 22, 1985, CGAIRTEL TO DIRECTOR DATED JANUARY 9, 1985, CGTELS TO DIRECTOR DATED JANUARY 15, 16, AND 19, 1985, AND MMTEL TO DIRECTOR DATED JANUARY 18, 1985.

THE REFERENCED TELETYPES TO THE DIRECTOR DATED JANUARY 15, 16, 18, AND 19, 1985, DEAL WITH [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] WHILE FBIHQ SUPPORTS FULL COOPERATION WITH THE FT. LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE MURDER INVESTIGATIONS, IT IS NOTED THAT IN THE MIAMI TELETYPE TO THE DIRECTOR, DETECTIVE [REDACTED], FT. LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT, ADVISED THAT HIS INTEREST IN THE DORMANT HOMICIDE INVESTIGATIONS HAD BEEN REKINDLED BY FREE LANCE WRITER GAETEN

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FONZIE. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE FT. LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS QUESTIONED REGARDING WHAT EVIDENCE HAD BEEN DEVELOPED REGARDING THESE MURDERS AND SPECIFICALLY, WHAT EVIDENCE TIED [REDACTED] TO THE MURDERS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE IF THE FBI'S ATTEMPT TO COOPERATE WITH THE FT. LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL FURTHER THE MURDER INVESTIGATION OR ASSIST FONZIE IN WRITING HIS ARTICLE. PRIOR TO PROVIDING FT. LAUDERDALE WITH THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, CHICAGO IS TO DETERMINE WHAT EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE WHICH CONNECTS [REDACTED] WITH THE MURDERS AND WHY DETECTIVE [REDACTED] WISHES TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] [REDACTED], AND [REDACTED]

THE REFERENCED JANUARY 15, 1985, TELETYPE TO THE DIRECTOR WAS AN UPDATE OF THE STATUS OF THE INCUBATOR INVESTIGATION. IN THIS COMMUNICATION IT WAS INDICATED THAT [REDACTED]

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OO 201649Z FEB 85

M MIAMI (194-318) (PC-1) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (194-419) IMMEDIATE

(ATTENTION: [REDACTED], WHITE COLLAR CRIME SECTION,

ROOM 3853)

CHICAGO (194-614) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

INCUBATOR OO: CHICAGO

RE MIAMI TEL TO CHICAGO DATED FEBRUARY 12, 1985, ALSO RE
MIAMI TELCALL TO CHICAGO ON FEBRUARY 14, 1985.

ON FEBRUARY 11, 1985, SA [REDACTED] MEDIA COORDINATOR,
MIAMI DIVISION, MET WITH GAETON FONZI CONCERNING ARTICLE ABOUT

[REDACTED] WHICH IS TO APPEAR IN THE
APRIL ISSUE OF MIAMI SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE. FONZI FURNISHED
ORALLY, A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE STORY WHICH AMOUNTS TO A RUNNING
CHRONOLOGY OF [REDACTED]

TO BE ENTERED: ANALYST pac

ISIS ENTRY
YES ✓
NO

Desk #1
Desk #2
Desk #3
Desk #4
Squad #5
Squad #5-A
Squad #5-B
Squad #5-C
Squad #6
Squad #6-A
Squad #6-B
Squad #6-C
Squad #6-D
Squad #7
Squad #7-B
Squad #7-C
Squad #8
Squad #9
Squad #10
Squad #11
Squad #12
Squad #13
Squad #13-A
Squad #14
Squad #15
Squad #16

194C-614-Sub 1
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED

FEB 20 1985

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b7C

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

PAGE TWO MM 194-318 UNCLAS

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

FONZI HAS DONE SUBSTANTIAL RESEARCH INTO DOCUMENTING [REDACTED]
CLOSE ASSOCIATION AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE THREE
MISSING INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE WHICH POINTS
STRONGLY TO HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES
AND PROBABLE DEATHS. ADDITIONALLY, FONZI POSES THE QUESTION,
"WHY WOULD THE GOVERNMENT PROTECT SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL."

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b7C

SA [REDACTED] DOES NOT FEEL FONZI IS WRITING THE ARTICLE WITH
THE MAIN INTENT OF BEING CRITICAL OF THE FBI, BUT RATHER,
"WHY IS THIS INDIVIDUAL [REDACTED] STILL WALKING THE STREETS
TODAY?" FONZI APPARENTLY DOES NOT KNOW [REDACTED]

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b7E

[REDACTED] FONZI BELIEVES [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IT IS FELT THAT THE ARTICLE, IN PART, WILL BE SOMEWHAT
CRITICAL OF THE FBI IN OVERALL RELATIONSHIP TO THE [REDACTED] MATTER
THROUGHOUT THESE PAST 10 YEARS OR SO. IT IS ALSO BELIEVED THAT
THE ARTICLE WILL RAISE SOME CRUCIAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE

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b7C

PAGE THREE MM 194-318 UNCLAS

b7E

BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☒ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date

2/21/85

FM CHICAGO (194C-614) (SQUAD 7B) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE 0405

MIAMI (194C-318) IMMEDIATE (ATTN: SA [REDACTED])

MEDIA 0330

COORDINATOR, MIAMI DIVISION) (INFORMATION)

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: SSA [REDACTED] WHITE COLLAR CRIME SECTION, ROOM
 3853 (HAND CARRY)

INCUBATOR; OO: CHICAGO

RE CG TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU DATED NOVEMBER 20, 1984, NOVEMBER
 30, 1984, JANUARY 15, 1985, JANUARY 17, 1985, JANUARY 30, 1985,
 AND MIAMI TELETYPES TO CHICAGO DATED JANUARY 25, 1985, AND
 FEBRUARY 20, 1985.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU ON NOVEMBER 20, 1984, [REDACTED]

ADVISED FBI,

[REDACTED] CHICAGO TELEPHONICALLY THAT A FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA POLICE
 OFFICER AND A BROWARD COUNTY INVESTIGATOR (MIAMI, FLORIDA) CONTACTED

AWB:jjp
 (1) *jgp*

10, 11, 12

194C-614-Sub-G
 SEARCHED
 SERIALIZED *MO*
 INDEXED
 FILED *15 12 85*

Approved: *E.O. 11/12*

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

*RG*b6
b7Cb6
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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
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☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO CG 194C-614 UNCLAS

HIM CONCERNING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RELATED THAT THESE OFFICERS (NAMES UNKNOWN) WERE WORKING WITH A NOVELIST OR WRITER NAMED GAYTON FONZI.

APPARENTLY FONZI WAS INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT [REDACTED] WAS INVOLVED IN THE STRANGULATION MURDERS OF TWO OR THREE ELDERLY FEMALES IN BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, (THE EXACT DETAILS WERE UNKNOWN). ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE MURDERS OCCURED IN THE 1970'S, THE OFFICERS DID NOT FURNISH HIM WITH ANY DETAILS.

[REDACTED] TOLD THE OFFICERS HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO RELEASE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING [REDACTED] OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT

[REDACTED] WAS WORKING WITH A NEW YORK DEBT COLLECTION FIRM.

[REDACTED] DID NOT GIVE THE OFFICERS ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

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b7Cb6
b7Cb6
b7Cb6
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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
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☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
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☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

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THE MIAMI DIVISION WAS REQUESTED TO DETERMINE
FULL DETAILS CONCERNING GAYTON FONZI AND THE INVESTIGATORS WITH WHOM
FONZI IS COOPERATING CONCERNING THE STORY ABOUT _____

ON JANUARY 16, 1985, THE MIAMI DIVISION INTERVIEWED FORT
LAUDERDALE POLICE CHIEF, RONALD COCHRAN, AND DETECTIVE _____
THESE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WERE ADVISED THAT THE FBI IS AWARE OF

THESE OFFICERS WERE
ADVISED THAT THE FBI WILL COMPLETELY COOPERATE IN THE MURDER
INVESTIGATION AND WILL NOT IMPEDE THE MURDER INVESTIGATION. THESE
OFFICERS AGREED THEY WOULD NOT RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO ANY THIRD
PARTY.

DETECTIVE _____ ADVISED THAT APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO HE WAS
TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED BY A FREE LANCE WRITER, BY THE NAME OF
GAYTON FONZI, WHO IS FROM THE MIAMI AREA AND IS WRITING AN ARTICLE
ON _____ FONZI IS KNOWN
AS AN INVESTIGATOR FOR THE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH HANDLED THE

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

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b7C

FBI

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☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE FOUR CG 194C-614 UNCLAS

KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, AND IS ALLEGED TO HAVE NUMEROUS CONTACTS
 NATIONWIDE. THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ARTICLE TO BE PUBLISHED
 BY FONZI WAS UNKNOWN BUT NEBULOUS DETAILS FROM THE LAW
 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS INDICATED THAT FONZI'S ARTICLE WOULD
 HIGHLIGHT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ACCORDING TO DETECTIVE [REDACTED] THE
 ARTICLE WOULD NOT BE FAVORABLE TO THE FBI. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT
 HE HAS RELATED SEVERAL DETAILS SURROUNDING HOMICIDE INVESTIGATIONS
 INVOLVING [REDACTED] IN EXCHANGE FOR LEADS CONCERNING THE MURDERS
 THAT FONZI HAD DEVELOPED. ALSO ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] FONZI
 BELIEVES [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE INFORMATION CONCERNING [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] WAS RELAYED TO [REDACTED]
 BY FONZI, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NASHVILLE,
 TENNESSEE NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE SITUATION. SUBSEQUENTLY
 [REDACTED] TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE [REDACTED]

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- ☐ Immediate
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☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
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Date _____

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STATED THAT THE CONTACT BY FREE LANCE WRITER FONZI REKINDLES HIS INTEREST IN A RATHER DORMANT HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION HE PARTICIPATED IN MANY YEARS AGO. [REDACTED] CHARACTERIZES [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] INDICATED THAT HE WAS DEDICATED TO EXHAUST ALL LEADS TO ACCOMPLISH SUCCESSFUL LOCAL PROSECUTION IN THESE MATTERS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STATED THAT HE WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STATED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE DIRECT EVIDENCE AGAINST [REDACTED] IN THESE HOMICIDES. [REDACTED] HOPES TO ROUND OUT ADDITIONAL FACTS TO SHOW A SERIES OF CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVING PRIOR OR SIMILAR ACTS TO MAKE THIS PARTICULAR HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION. [REDACTED] WAS AWARE THAT [REDACTED]

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

FBI

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PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
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☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
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Date _____

PAGE EIGHT CG 194C-614 UNCLAS

DETERMINED THAT IT HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AS OF THE DATE OF THIS TELETYPE,
NONE OF THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN FURNISHED TO [REDACTED] OR ANY
LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES.

ON FEBRUARY 11, 1985, THE MEDIA COORDINATOR FOR THE
MIAMI DIVISION MET WITH GAYTON FONZI CONCERNING FONZI'S
ARTICLE ABOUT [REDACTED] WHICH IS TO APPEAR IN THE
APRIL ISSUE OF THE MIAMI SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE (TO BEGIN
PRINTING ON FEBRUARY 22, 1985 AND APPEAR IN ITS FINAL FORM
IN THE MAGAZINE APPROXIMATELY A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE FIRST OF
APRIL, 1985). FONZI FURNISHED ORALLY, A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF
THE STORY WHICH AMOUNTS TO A RUNNING CHRONOLOGY OF [REDACTED]

FONZI HAS DONE SUBSTANTIAL RESEARCH INTO DOCUMENTING

[REDACTED] CLOSE ASSOCIATION AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

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FBI

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PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
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☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
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Date _____

PAGE NINE CG 194C-614 UNCLAS

THE THREE MISSING INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED IN THE REFERENCED TELETYPE WHICH POINTS STRONGLY TO HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES AND PROBABLE DEATHS. ADDITIONALLY FONZI POSES THE QUESTION "WHY WOULD THE GOVERNMENT PROTECT SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL".

THE MIAMI MEDIA COORDINATOR DID NOT FEEL THAT FONZI IS WRITING THE ARTICLE WITH THE MAIN INTENT OF BEING CRITICAL OF THE FBI, BUT RATHER, "WHY IS THIS INDIVIDUAL [REDACTED] STILL WALKING THE STREETS TODAY?" FONZI APPARENTLY DOES NOT KNOW [REDACTED]

FONZI BELIEVES [REDACTED]

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE ARTICLE IN PART, WILL BE SOMEWHAT CRITICAL OF THE FBI IN OVERALL RELATIONSHIP TO THE [REDACTED] MATTER THROUGHOUT THESE PAST TEN YEARS OR SO. MIAMI ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE ARTICLE WILL RAISE SOME CRUCIAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING [REDACTED]

VIA TELCALL ON FEBRUARY 20, 1985, THE MIAMI MEDIA COORDINATOR ADVISED FBI CHICAGO THAT HE HAD BEEN RECONTACTED TELEPHONICALLY BY FONZI. THE MEDIA COORDINATOR INDICATED THAT FONZI INQUIRED ABOUT A DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE FBI WOULD RELEASE CERTAIN

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- ☐ Immediate
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CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
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☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

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ALLEGED DETAILED INFORMATION IN THE POSSESSION OF THE
MIAMI DIVISION ^{CONCERNING} [REDACTED] FONZI ALSO INDICATED TO THE
MIAMI MEDIA COORDINATOR THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO DISCUSS
WITH HIS SUPERIORS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ARTICLE
CONCERNING [REDACTED] COULD POSSIBLY BE PLACED IN CONTENTION
FOR RELEASE TO THE NATIONAL WIRE SERVICES, NAMELY THE AP
AND UPI PRESS SERVICES.

THE RELEASE OF THIS ARTICLE CONCERNING [REDACTED] IN THE
SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE AND ON THE NATIONAL WIRE SERVICE

[REDACTED]

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Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

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☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
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☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
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Date _____

PAGE ELEVEN CG 194C-614 UNCLAS

THE CHIEF OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, CRIMINAL
 DIVISION, AUSA [REDACTED] NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS,
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS HAS EXPRESSED HIS FIRM VIEW THAT THE PUBLICATION
 OF FONZI'S STORY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE SAC, CHICAGO AND [REDACTED] HAVE AGREED
 THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FBI SHOULD SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH FONZI
 AND REQUEST THAT THE ARTICLE'S PUBLICATION BE ~~DELETED~~ ^{DELETED FOR 90 DAYS.}
 IT IS CHICAGO'S BELIEF THAT SUCH A REQUEST WOULD BE APPROPRIATE
 UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONCERNING THIS MAJOR ON-GOING POLITICAL
 CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION IN CHICAGO.

AS INDICATED ABOVE, IT IS SPECULATED THAT THE ARTICLE WILL
 GO TO THE PRINTER'S OFFICE ^{AROUND} FEBRUARY 22, 1985.

IN VIEW OF THE PRINTING OFFICE DEADLINE, A CONVERSATION
 WITH FONZI SHOULD BE HELD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
 AND PROCEDURES (MAOP) PART II, SECTION 5 (PRESS-PUBLICITY)

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
 (Number) (Time)

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FBI

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PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWELVE CG 194C-614 UNCLAS

SUB SECTION 5-2.2.6 (NEWS MEDIA INQUIRIES REQUESTS TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION) THIS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION (6) AND THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (OCPA) ARE ^{ED} HEREBY REQUESTING TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR SAC, ~~MIAMI~~ TO DISCUSS THE DELAY OF THIS ARTICLE WITH THE AUTHOR, GAYTON FONZI, WITH FULL ASSURANCES THAT THE REQUEST TO DELAY IS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO DISCONTINUE THE ULTIMATE PUBLICATION OF THE ARTICLE,

BT

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

TO BE
ENTERED: YES X
NO
ANALYST pac

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SERIALIZED MR 133
INDEXED MR
FILED MR

FBI

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☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ UNCLAS E F T O☒ UNCLAS

Date

2/25/85

FM CHICAGO (194C-614) (P) (SQUAD 7B)

TO MIAMI (194C-318) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

INCUBATOR, OO: CHICAGO

RE CG TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU AND MIAMI DATED FEBRUARY 21, 1985.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MIAMI, RECENT TELTYPES HAVE CONCERNED OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM THE BUREAU TO ALLOW AN FBI OFFICIAL TO CONTACT WRITER, GAYTON FONZI (WRITER FOR THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE) TO DETERMINE IF FONZI WOULD BE WILLING TO DELAY AN ARTICLE

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REQUESTING INVESTIGATION BY THE MIAMI DIVISION TO OBTAIN TELEPHONE RECORDS AT THE DIPLOMAT HOTEL IN MIAMI, FLORIDA.

CHICAGO ON A DAILY BASIS ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN ALL TOLL

AWB/jjp/dc *dc*

(1)

*Addition PG*194C-614-Sub 67-146
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INDEXED

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Approved: *RAA/CJA*

Transmitted

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FM MIAMI (194C-318) (WCC-2) (FLRA) (P)

TO CHICAGO (194C-614) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

INCUBATOR; OO:CHICAGO.

RE CHICAGO TELETYPE TO MIAMI, DATED FEBRUARY 25, 1985.

ON MARCH 5, 1985, [REDACTED] (PROTECT IDENTITY),

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

01234

N.A.
3/8/85
cdc

LEIS ENTRY
TO BE YES ☒
ENTERED: NO
ANALYST *pac*

014-5446-147

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FBI - CHICAGO	

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_____ Squad #6-A
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PAGE FOUR MM 1940-318 UNCLAS E F T O

THE CHICAGO DIVISION. A COPY OF THIS MATERIAL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED TO CHICAGO DIVISION, AT A LATER DATE. FL PD PERSONNEL AGREED NOT TO FURNISH ANY OF THE MATERIAL RECEIVED BY THE FBI TO FREE LANCE WRITER SAETON KONZIE. FL PD PERSONNEL ALSO AGREED THAT NO ACTIVE INVESTIGATION WHICH COULD SURFACE THE COVERT CHICAGO FBI INVESTIGATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED PENDING REVIEW OF THE MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY THE FBI AND FURTHER COORDINATION WITH THE FBI.

CHICAGO IS REQUESTED TO FURNISH PERTINENT MATERIALS WHEN RECEIVED TO THE MIAMI DIVISION FOR DISSEMINATION TO THE FL PD.

BT

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P HQ MM

DE CG

P 181640Z MAR 85

FM CHICAGO (194C-614 SUB C) (P) (SQUAD 7B)

TO DIRECTOR (194-4719) ROUTINE

MIAMI (194C-318) (NCC-2) (FLRA) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: SSA [REDACTED] WCC, ROOM 3849, FBIHQ
INCUBATOR; OO: CHICAGO.

RE CHICAGO TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, FEBRUARY 21,
1985.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, THIS
COMMUNICATION CONCERNS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AND A RELATED ARTICLE
CONCERNING THE MURDER ALLEGATIONS TO BE PUBLISHED IN
THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE WRITTEN BY FREE LANCE
WRITER GAEON FONZI.

AS THE BUREAU IS AWARE, ON FEBRUARY 22, 1985,
ISIS ENTRY

TO BE
ENTERED:
ANALYST

YES
NO

pac

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FBI CHICAGO	

[REDACTED]

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PAGE TWO

CG 1940-614 SUB C

UNCLAS

FBIHQ FURNISHED APPROVAL FOR SAC CHICAGO TO PERSONALLY
CONTACT GAETON FONZI AND HIS PUBLISHERS REGARDING
THE BIOGRAPHICAL ARTICLE TO BE PUBLISHED CONCERNING
[REDACTED] IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

AS A RESULT OF THIS APPROVAL, ON FEBRUARY 25,
1985, SAC CHICAGO TRAVELED TO MIAMI, FLORIDA AND
PERSONALLY DISCUSSED THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE
ARTICLE WITH THE EDITORS OF THE MAGAZINE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND
WRITER GAETON FONZI IN THE PRESENCE OF FBI SPECIAL
AGENT [REDACTED] (MIAMI DIVISION).

SAC CHICAGO AND THE PARTIES MENTIONED ABOVE
REACHED AN AGREEMENT WHEREBY A SPECIFIC STORY BEING
PREPARED BY MR. FONZI WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED UNTIL
THE JULY ISSUE OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE. IT WAS
ALSO AGREED THAT SAC CHICAGO ON OR ABOUT MAY 15, 1985,
OR EARLIER, WOULD ARRANGE FOR EDITOR [REDACTED] AND FONZI
TO BE GIVEN A FRANK AND CANDID BRIEFING BY ASSISTANT
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (AUSA) [REDACTED], NORTHERN
DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS (NDI), CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. IT

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b7C

PAGE THREE

CG 1940-614 SUB C

UNCLAS

WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE FBI WOULD ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE
SOME UNANSWERED QUESTIONS REGARDING [REDACTED] OF
INTEREST TO FONZI AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE.

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SAC CHICAGO REQUESTED THAT ALL PRESENT AT THE
MEETING MAINTAIN THE DISCUSSIONS IN ABSOLUTE
CONFIDENCE AS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b6
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SAC CHICAGO CONFIRMED THESE AGREEMENTS VIA
LETTER TO [REDACTED] DATED MARCH 1, 1985. IN THE
LETTER, SAC CHICAGO DID NOT IDENTIFY [REDACTED] BY NAME.

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IN ADDITION, SAC CHICAGO ALSO DIRECTED THE
CHICAGO ASAC AND THE CASE AGENT OF THE INCUBATOR CASE
TO CONTACT FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE OFFICER [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

AS A RESULT, A MEETING WAS HELD AT THE FORT
LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA RESIDENT AGENCY ON MARCH 1, 1985
ATTENDED BY CHICAGO ASAC [REDACTED], MIAMI
ASAC [REDACTED] FORT LAUDERDALE SSRA [REDACTED]
CHICAGO SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED], AND ~~FBI~~ *UNCL*
LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA DETECTIVES [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

PAGE FIVE

CG 1940-314 SUB C

UNCLAS

FBI HEADQUARTERS TO PREPARE A CORRELATION MEMO REFLECTING RESULTS OF THE REVIEW OF FBI HEADQUARTER FILES CONCERNING

THIS MATERIAL IN THE CORRELATION MEMO WOULD ALSO BE DISSEMINATED TO THE FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE DISSEMINATION GUIDELINES. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT MIAMI COULD XEROX ALL OF THE PERTINENT FILES AND DISTRIBUTE THESE FILES TO THE FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT FIRST REFERRING THESE FILES TO THE CHICAGO DIVISION. A COPY OF THIS MATERIAL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED TO THE CHICAGO DIVISION AT A LATER DATE.

THE FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AGREED NOT TO FURNISH ANY OF THE MATERIAL RECEIVED BY THE FBI TO FREE LANCE WRITER GAETON FONZI.

FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ALSO AGREED THAT NO ACTIVE INVESTIGATION WHICH COULD SURFACE THE COVERT CHICAGO FBI INVESTIGATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED PENDING REVIEW OF THE MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY THE FBI AND FURTHER COORDINATION WITH THE FBI.

BT

b6
b7c

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ UNCLAS E F T O☒ UNCLAS

Date

8-21

FM CHICAGO (194C-614) (P) (SQ 7A)

TO DIRECTOR (194-4862) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

SSA [REDACTED] PUBLIC CORRUPTION UNIT, WHITE
COLLAR CRIME SECTION, ROOM 3853.

INCUBATOR; OO: CHICAGO.

RE: CG TELCAL OF SSA [REDACTED] TO
SSA [REDACTED] FBIHQ AUGUST 14, 1985, AND CG
TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU AUGUST 15, 1985.ON AUGUST 20, 1985, [REDACTED] ASSISTANT
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (AUSA) AND CHIEF OF THE CRIMINAL
DIVISION, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS, ADVISED THAT HE PLANS TO MEET WITH GAETON
FONZI, WRITER, SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE, MIAMI, FLORIDA,
DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 26, THROUGH 31, 1985.

[REDACTED] STATED THAT HE AND FONZI HAVE NOT SET AN

AWB:ms

(1)

ms

194C-614-

NO NO

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted

029 0010
(Number) (Time)

Per

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21 AUG 85 07 48 z

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FBI

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- ☐ Teletype
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PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO

CG 194C-614

UNCLAS

EXACT DATE FOR THE MEETING. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO FURNISH FONZI WITH GENERAL INFORMATION (NO NAMES) CONCERNING CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION AND TO REQUEST THAT FONZI DELAY THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE ARTICLE CONCERNING [REDACTED] CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE TO THE PRINTER DURING LATE SEPTEMBER, 1985.

THE CHICAGO DIVISION AND THE USA'S OFFICE AT CHICAGO AGREE THAT A REQUEST TO DELAY PUBLICATION IS APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT A TRANSITION FROM THE UNDERCOVER TO THE OVERT PHASE OF THE INVESTIGATION IS ANTICIPATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PUBLICATION OF THE ARTICLE COULD [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED MEETING WITH FONZI WITH [REDACTED] ASSISTANT ATTORNEY

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

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- ☐ Teletype
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PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
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☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE THREE

CG 194C-614

UNCLAS

GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, USDOJ, WASHINGTON, D.C..

ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] CONCURS WITH THE REQUEST
FOR DELAY OF PUBLICATION [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BT

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Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
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CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
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☒ UNCLAS

Date

30 SEP 85 03 35 z

9/30/85

FM CHICAGO (194C-614) (P) (SQ. 7A)

TO DIRECTOR (194-4862) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTN: SSA [REDACTED], PUBLIC CORRUPTION UNIT,
WHITE COLLAR CRIME SECTION, ROOM 3853, FBIHQ.
INCUBATOR; OO:CHICAGO.

RE CHICAGO TEL TO BUREAU, SEPTEMBER 11, 1985.

EXCEPT WHERE NOTED THE FOLLOWING DETAILS WERE
CONSENSUALLY RECORDED.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1985,
AUSA [REDACTED] NDI, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED
GAETON FONZI, SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE, AT FONZI'S REQUEST.
ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, FONZI ASKED IF DELAYING HIS ARTICLE
FROM NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 1985, WOULD BE USEFUL. AUSA
[REDACTED] STATED THAT WE COULD DEFINITELY USE THE EXTRA
TIME AND THEREAFTER FONZI AGREED TO DELAY PUBLICATION

AWB/kal kaQ

(1)

Approved: EDH/Pm

Transmitted

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(Number)

(Time)

Per

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FBI

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- ☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
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☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO CG 194C-614 UNCLAS

OF THE ARTICLE UNTIL DECEMBER, 1985.

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Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

000014 0172144Z

RF HQ CG ME

DE WAI 17

0172144Z JAN 85

FM MIAMI (1940-310) (WCC-2) (PLRA) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

(ATTN: SSA [REDACTED] PUBLIC CORRUPTION UNIT,

WCC SECTION, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION)

CHICAGO (1940-614) ROUTINE

(ATTN: ASAC [REDACTED])

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

(ATTN: SA [REDACTED] NASHVILLE RA)

BT

UNCLAS

INCUBATOR: OO: CHICAGO.

RE CHICAGO TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, DATED JANUARY 14, 1985

TELEPHONE CALL SS

A. FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, TO ASAC [REDACTED]

ON JANUARY 16, 1985.

FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE CHIEF, RONALD COCHRAN, AND

DETECTIVE [REDACTED] INTERVIEWED ON JANUARY 16, 1985. BOTH

WERE ADVISED THAT THE FBI IS AWARE OF [REDACTED]

FBI-CHICAGO

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1940614 SubO-44

me

JAN 17 1985

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THEY WERE NOT ADVISED AS TO THE ORIGIN OF THE INVESTIGATION, OR THE NATURE OF THE INVESTIGATION, OTHER THAN IT DID NOT DEAL WITH VIOLENCE. THEY WERE ADVISED THAT THE FBI WILL COMPLETELY COOPERATE IN THE MURDER INVESTIGATION AND WILL NOT IMPEDE THE MURDER INVESTIGATION. EACH AGREED THAT THEY WOULD NOT RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO ANY THIRD PARTY.

4

[] ADVISED THAT APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO HE WAS CALLED BY A FREE LANCE WRITER, BY THE NAME OF GAYTON FONZIE, WHO IS FROM THE MIAMI AREA, AND IS WRITING AN ARTICLE ON

b6
b7C

PREVIOUSLY AN INVESTIGATOR FOR THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE
HANDLING KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, AND HAS NUMEROUS CONTACTS
NATIONWIDE. WHERE AND WHEN ARTICLE IS TO BE PUBLISHED
IS UNKNOWN. ARTICLE WILL HIGHLIGHT [REDACTED]

ACCORDING TO [] THE ARTICLE WILL NOT BE FAVORABLE TO THE

PAGE 7H

EE HM 1940-310 UNCLAS

FBI. [] HAS RELATED TO FONZIE DETAILS SURROUNDING THE
HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION APPARENTLY IN EXCHANGE FOR LEADS FONZIE
HAS SURFACED. ALSO ACCORDING TO [] FONZIE BELIEVES []

b6
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[] BY FONZIE, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NASHVILLE
NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE SITUATION. []

[] ADVISED THAT CONTACT BY FREE LANCE WRITER FONZIE
RENEWED HIS INTEREST IN A RATHER DORMANT HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION
HE PARTICIPATED IN YEARS AGO. [] CHARACTERIZES []

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[]
[]
NOW APPEARS TO BE DEDICATED TO EXHAUST ALL LEADS TO ACCOMPLISH

PAGE SEVEN MM 194C-318 UNCLAS

MIAMI REVIEWING NUMEROUS CLOSED FILES REGARDING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FOR INFORMATION PERTINENT TO CHICAGO.

CHICAGO NOTE THAT WRITER FONZIE AWARE THAT INFORMATION

[REDACTED]

BUREAU FOR INFORMATION.

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b7C

b6
b7C
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MM 0018 0251657Z

RR CG ME

DE MM

R 251657Z JAN 85

FM MIAMI (194-318)(WCC-2)(FLRA) (P)

TO CHICAGO (194-614) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

INCUBATOR; OO: CHICAGO.

FBI
CHICAGO
25 JAN 85 11 00

Desk #2
Desk #3
Desk #4
Squad #5
Squad #5-A
Squad #5-B
Squad #5-C
Squad #6
Squad #6-A
Squad #6-B
Squad #6-C
Squad #6-D
Squad #7
Squad #7-A
Squad #7-B
Squad #8
Squad #9
Squad #10
Squad #11
Squad #12
Squad #13
Squad #13-A
Squad #14
Squad #15
Squad #16

TO BE
ENTERED: YES ☒
NO ☐
ANALYST pac

ISIS ENTRY

RE MIAMI TELETYPE TO CHICAGO, DATED JANUARY 17, 1985; AND

MIAMI TELEPHONE CALL TO CHICAGO (SA [REDACTED]), ON JANUARY 23, 1985.

ON JANUARY 23, 1985, DETECTIVE [REDACTED] FORT

LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT (FLPD), ADVISED HE HAS

BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FREE LANCE WRITER GAYTON FONZIE, AND

HAS DETERMINED THAT THE ARTICLE CONCERNING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WILL BE PUBLISHED IN APPROXIMATELY THREE
WEEKS.

IN ADDITION, FONZIE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FBI MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE SA [REDACTED], AND HAS ADVISED THAT THE ARTICLE HE IS WRITING IS FOR SOUTH FLORIDA MAGAZINE.

194C614/3460-45
SERIALIZED 1/25 1/25
JAN 25 1985
[REDACTED] 1/25

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b6
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b6
b7C

PAGE TWO MM 194-318 UNCLAS E F T O

A LOCAL PUBLICATION DISTRIBUTED IN THE GREATER MIAMI TRI-COUNTY
AREA.

MIAMI AS REQUESTED BY CHICAGO IS NOT DISSEMINATING ANY
INFORMATION TO FLPD, UNTIL ADVISED BY CHICAGO.

MEMPHIS FOR INFORMATION.

BT

3/1/85

SAC, CHICAGO (194C-614)

INCUBATOR

SAC, MIAMI (194C-318)

Personal Attention

Attached herewith is the original of a letter to
be hand-delivered by SA [redacted] Miami Division, to
[redacted] of the South Florida-Miami Magazine.

b6
b7C

Chicago is deeply appreciative of the assistance
Miami has provided regarding captioned matter.

- 2 - Miami (Encls.)
- ① - Chicago

EDH:mmp
(3)

SUBQ

Wm

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6
b7C

194-614 sub Q - 32

ISIS ENTRY ☒
TO BE YES
ENTERED: NO
ANALYST *7XCO*

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *NO*
INDEXED _____
FILED *NO*

219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

March 1, 1985

[redacted]
South Florida-Miami Magazine
P. O. Box 140008
Miami, Florida 33114

Dear [redacted]

This letter is to confirm our conversation of February 25, 1985, at your office in the presence of Gaeton Fonzi, [redacted] and FBI Special Agent [redacted]

During our conversation the parties present reached an agreement whereby a specific story being prepared by Mr. Fonzi would not be published until the July issue of your magazine. It was also agreed that I, on or about May 15, 1985, or earlier, would arrange for you and Mr. Fonzi to be given a frank and candid briefing by Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] Northern District of Illinois. It was also agreed that the FBI would attempt to resolve some unanswered questions regarding a particular person of interest to Mr. Fonzi and your magazine.

I would like to take this opportunity also to thank you, [redacted] Mr. Fonzi and [redacted] for having taken the time out of your busy schedules to meet with me. I am confident the actions being taken by all parties concerned are in the best interest of both the citizens of the United States and the journalism profession.

Until you hear from me again, please maintain this matter in absolute confidence as the safety of Special Agents of the FBI and one other person is of the utmost importance to me.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted] *ED*
EDWARD D. HEGARTY
Special Agent in Charge

- 1 - Addressee
1 - SAC, Miami (Personal Attn) (194C-318)
1 - Chicago (194C-614)
- 194. 614*

ADDENDUM:

EPH:asp
11/15

The article discussed in the 3/1/85 letter to [redacted] relates to an investigative journalism manuscript prepared by writer GAETON FONZI concerning [redacted]
[redacted]

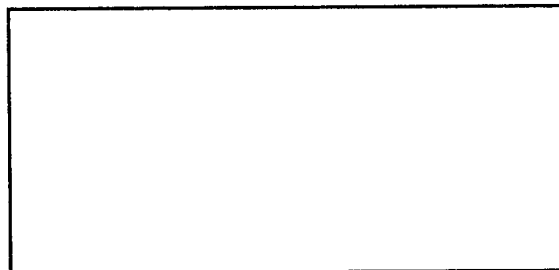
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b7C
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The manuscript for the proposed article appeared to be approximately two inches thick and the gist of the article was said to revolve around a series of facts and circumstances that would tend to indicate that [redacted]
[redacted]

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I advised all parties present to the conversation that [redacted] and the FBI would cooperate with them but in so doing would not violate existing law.

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 12/27/85

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (198-4862)
 FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (194C-614) (P) (SQUAD 7A)
 INCUBATOR
 OO: CHICAGO

Re CG airtels to the Bureau dated 11/4/85 and 12/3/85, captioned as above.

Enclosed for the Media Services Unit and Public Corruption Unit, FBIHQ, are single copies of a magazine article that appears in the January, 1986 issue of the MIAMI/SOUTH FLORIDA Magazine.

As noted in referenced communications, this article deals with [REDACTED]

- 2 - Bureau (EXPRESS MAIL)
 1 - Public Corruption Unit, White Collar Crime Section, Criminal Investigative Division, Room 3849, FBIHQ
 Attention: SSA [REDACTED] Enclosure 1
 1 - Media Services Unit, Public Affairs Section, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, Room 7150, FBIHQ
 Attention: SSA [REDACTED], Enclosure 1

② - Chicago

CER:sgp

(4) *sgp*

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
 (Number) (Time)

TO BE ENTERED: YES ☒ NO ☐
 ANALYST *pac*

ISIS ENTRY

Sub Q

194C-614-5169-86

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - CHICAGO	

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Investigation / Reported by Gaeton Fonzi

THE UNTOUCHABLE

He's a dangerous man, a clever man,
and he is blowing the lid off
political corruption in Chicago
as a protected FBI informant.

South Florida police say he may also
be responsible for the murders of
three local people.

The man is Michael Burnett. He is a crook. A professional con man. An admitted international swindler. A skilled liar. Local police say he may also be a murderer.

But now Michael Burnett is working as an undercover informant for the US Department of Justice and its investigative arm, the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Although the feds acknowledge they are aware of his background, they have to protect him. Because once again, as several times in the past, Burnett is their conspirator in snaring culprits justice thinks are bigger fish than he.

Once again, when the time comes, they will bring Burnett to center stage. Amid great hoopla and national press coverage, they will acknowledge that Michael Burnett has been their secret star in a major Abscam-type operation. That operation, the Department of Justice says, will expose public corruption in Chicago. The assistant US Attorney heading the investigation in Chicago says it will lead to a dozen indictments. And Michael Burnett, the virtuoso undercover informant, will emerge a hero.

Yet this same Michael Burnett has eluded South Florida law enforcement agencies for more than a decade. Local police have long been looking into Burnett's involvement in the disappearances over the last 10 years of two women from Broward and a man from Palm Beach. The local police consider the cases homicides. Broward detectives have a sworn statement from a witness who said Burnett bragged that he killed two of the missing people.

*The people shown in this
artist's conception are, from top,
Adelaide Stiles, Anne Sessa,
Max Bussard and Michael Burnett.*



ILLUSTRATION: JOAN EVAN

He had risen to the highest ranks of international securities swindling and fraud.

But down through the years, Michael Burnett has remained untouchable—thanks largely to the US Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

So close has the alliance between Michael Burnett and the Federal government become that FBI and Justice Department officials from Chicago took the unprecedented step of revealing the existence of an on-going secret investigation when they learned of this article.

They said they did so to protect the lives of those involved in the investigation, including that of career criminal Michael Burnett.

Vincent Connelly, the assistant US Attorney in charge of the Justice Department investigation in Chicago, acknowledges that Burnett's extensive criminal background was not a liability. In fact, it made him the perfect informant. "That's the irony of the situation," Connelly says. "It's impossible for the FBI to ever create an undercover agent who could burrow in where this guy is because of his past pedigree."

On such arrangements and such ironies, Michael Burnett has managed to sustain and prosper in his long criminal career.

THE TESTIMONY OF GEORGE WHITE

The thread of this story began in the summer of 1971. The US Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, headed by Sen. John McClellan, was in the midst of its sensational hearings on organized crime. National television audiences were being treated to the dramatic testimony of stool pigeons.

In the hours and days that followed, witness George White—testifying with immunity under an assumed name—regaled the senators, the press and the American public with the fascinating details of his colorful career. Without cracking the slightest smile, he told the committee, "I have spent most of my mature life in the securities field..."

That was like Jesse James saying he had been in banking. In fact, George White had risen to the highest echelons of the international securities swindling racket and financial fraud game. He told how he had created artificial markets for dozens of worthless stocks, wheeled and dealt with stolen securities, used counterfeit stocks and bonds as collateral for huge bank loans, and established short-lived paper corporations, as well as off-shore foreign banks and financial conduits for quick deals. He wound up associating with ranking members of organized crime.

"As far as is known, never before has the Justice Department or the FBI orchestrated such a revelation. They did so some months ago, when we asked them to respond to allegations in this story. Miami/South Florida agreed to delay publication three times because the FBI and Justice said premature exposure of Michael Burnett would endanger his life and the lives of the FBI agents working undercover with him and would compromise a significant corruption investigation. In communication with high-ranking Justice Department officials, we were advised that the investigation would be closed prior to this issue going to print."

Yet, despite the scope of his illegal activities, involving, as he himself put it, "many millions of dollars," White had been arrested only about a half dozen times prior to his Senate testimony. He also had spent very little time behind bars.

He claimed that he was quick to bribe judges. He told the Senators that, early on, he had become a valuable informant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Threatened with an indictment for fraudulently exporting funds to Switzerland, he agreed to become a regular snitch for the government. "My efforts in cooperating with federal authorities," he boasted, "led to the recovery of hundreds of thousands of dollars of stolen securities."

And when George White finished his sensational testimony, the Senators praised him effusively. Summing up, Chairman McClellan bade the witness good fortune: "I hope that you will ultimately have the opportunity to compete in this world legitimately...I commend you very highly, and I know others feel the same way."

George White glowed. "Thank you gentlemen," he said. Then he slowly rose and trundled out of the hearing room, out of Washington and back into his life of crime.

Within a week, *The New York Times* revealed that George White's real name was Michael Raymond. After the Senate hearings, Michael Raymond was placed in the Government Witness Protection Program, where his name was changed to Michael Burnett.

THE RUINATION OF MAX BUSSARD

Patricia Bussard died a few months ago. When we first interviewed her late in 1984, she didn't want her current name revealed because, she said, after all those years she was still afraid of Michael Burnett. She said her husband, Max Bussard, was going to cause Burnett problems and she knew that's why her husband disappeared.

Mrs. Bussard was an attractive woman with clear blue eyes, but her hair had gone white, there was a tremor in her voice, her body was thinning and her skin grew more pallid with every chemotherapy treatment. She showed the effects of the trauma of her husband's disappearance and her terrifying encounters with the man she knew as Michael Burnett.

"I consider myself very lucky to be alive after knowing him," she said. "He's a treacherous man."

Patricia Bussard said her life with Max was beautiful before Michael Burnett came into it. Max was a successful accountant. He provided well for her and their three children. They had a luxurious four-bedroom home in Boca Raton with a large swimming pool and a guest house. The only trouble with Max, she said, was that he was too good-hearted. He even invited Michael Burnett and his partner, Bobby Johnstone, to live with them until they found a place of their own when they first came down from New York.

Michael Burnett seemed an exceptionally charming man, she remembered, a perfect guest, a gourmet cook. He made his own Thousand Island dressing. When her youngest daughter had a big birthday party, he volunteered to do all the cooking. "He told me that he began in the restaurant business in New York as a dishwasher

Max Bussard's
wife: "I consider
myself lucky
to be alive after
knowing him."

when he was 12 years old," she said.

Bussard had met Michael Burnett through one of his clients, a Hollywood businessman named William Suave. (Today Suave says he doesn't remember how he met Burnett, but says he holds \$30,000 of worthless stock that Burnett sold him.) Burnett told Bussard that he was moving down from New York and he needed a financial man to head up this new company he was forming to handle a sensational new product, synthetic charcoal that could be safely burned indoors. Burnett, as it turned out, would use Bussard as his front.

Mrs. Bussard remembers that the week before Memorial Day in 1974, Max told her that Burnett wanted him to go to Chicago to check on the progress of equipment being designed for the new product.

Max Bussard called his wife on the morning he was scheduled to return home from Chicago. "He said that something had come up and he couldn't come home that evening," she recalled. "He said he would take the noon plane the next day. He seemed concerned and I asked him what was the matter. He said he had found something out, something he would have to report, but he didn't want to discuss it over the phone."

Mrs. Bussard called Burnett when it was clear her husband had missed his flight. He assured her nothing was wrong. Two frantic days later, with yet no word from Max, his wife again called Burnett who said he would come to the house. "I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown," she recalled. "I didn't know what to do. When Michael came over I pleaded with him to help me, to go to the police with me. Suddenly he was like another person. He had absolutely no sympathy, no understanding. 'You just better stay out of this,' he told me. 'Just don't open your mouth.' Then he gave me two \$100 bills. He said that was part of Max's back salary. 'But we've got to look for my husband!' I told him. That made him very angry. He shook his fist at me and said, 'I'm advising you not to do anything!' The way he changed was so completely shocking. I remember suddenly being very afraid of him."

Eventually, Mrs. Bussard's life would come close to falling completely to pieces. Without an insurance claim or means of support, she lost her house and car and was forced to apply for food stamps to feed her children. Psychiatric treatment by a community counselor helped her pull herself together. "I finally went to an attorney, Burton Levey, who had been working with Max on the business. 'There's nothing you can do now,' he told me. 'Why don't you try to forget the past and make a new life for yourself,' he said. He said he would get me a divorce and I could go on with my life. So eventually I did exactly what Burton Levey told me to. He charged me \$350 for the divorce." Levey had also worked as Burnett's attorney.

It may sound like Pat Bussard gave up easily. But that was hardly the case. First she went to the Boca Raton Chief of Police, the friend of a friend. "I think he thought I was crazy," she recalls. "He kept asking me if we had any domestic problems. I kept trying to tell

him I thought Max might have been murdered. I knew he didn't believe me."

Another terrible disillusionment came, said Mrs. Bussard, when two men who identified themselves as US Marshals knocked on her door. They said her hus-

band used stolen Treasury notes as collateral on a business loan. They asked where her husband was. She said she had no idea where he was and wouldn't believe that Max would do that. She said he must have received the stolen notes from Burnett. They asked if she could lure Burnett to a meeting so that they could confront him.

"I told them that Michael was pretty angry with me but that I would try to help," she recalled. "Would you believe I set up a meeting at the Holiday Inn West and sat there with that man, waiting for the marshals to show up. I was scared to death. And Michael let me know he had a gun on him. He tried to tell me that Max wasn't happy with me and he probably ran off somewhere. I was so angry but I couldn't let on. I kept looking around for the marshals. I couldn't believe it. They never showed up."

The next morning when she called one of the marshals, she said, he acted very nonchalant. He told her they had gotten tied up on another matter and couldn't make the meeting she had set up with Burnett.

Another shock came when Mrs. Bussard encountered the FBI. A couple of weeks after her husband's disappearance she searched the guest room Burnett and Johnstone had lived in briefly. She found some documents, a gun and, under the mattress, Bobby Johnstone's wallet. She said there were identification cards indicating several different aliases. She said she immediately packed everything she found into a briefcase, borrowed a car, then drove to the Federal Building in West Palm Beach and said she wanted to see an FBI agent.

Mrs. Bussard didn't remember the name of the agent but, she said, he seemed to know what was going on. He gave her his number and said he was going to Key West that weekend, where, he said, Michael Burnett was going for a meeting. He said he would call her on Monday and let her know what happened.

Mrs. Bussard said the FBI agent never called her. And he didn't return her calls. When she finally reached him he said he couldn't tell her anything. "I couldn't stand it any longer," she said. "I finally accused him right over the phone of taking a payoff. I said, 'You've got to be getting paid off!' He said, 'Oh, you're getting more neurotic every day.' Yes, I guess I was neurotic. I was down to about 80 pounds then and felt like I was going out of my mind."

What happened to the evidence in the briefcase that Mrs. Bussard turned over to the FBI? Was there ever an FBI investigation of Michael Burnett's involvement in the disappearance of Max Bussard?

More than a year after Mrs. Bussard received her last phone call from her husband, a Federal Grand Jury in Palm Beach handed down an indictment charging Max Bussard with unlawfully pledging stolen Treasury notes as collateral on a business loan for Michael Burnett's company. Late last year, the indictment was transferred in the Court

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Clerk's office to a special file called "fugitive cases." Early this year, Palm Beach Assistant US Attorney Karen Atkinson presented a court order moving to dismiss the indictment because, according to a report she received from the FBI, "It would appear to be the case" that Max Bussard was dead.

When the indictment against Bussard was thrown out, so were similar charges pending against Michael Burnett and Robert Johnstone.

THE TRAGIC LOVE OF ADELAIDE STILES

When Michael Raymond was testifying in Washington under the name of George White, Adelaide Ullian Stiles was clinging to her sad social charade in Fort Lauderdale.

Time had been cruel to Adelaide. She was beyond 60. Merciless lines creviced her heavy face. Unnaturally black hair disclosed her self delusions. Those assets which would have meant the most to a woman of her age—a loving companion, financial stability, enduring social status—had somehow all slipped by.

"Addie was really just a lonely old woman," says her friend Pat Sealey who now raises horses in Oklahoma. "I met her when I first came to Fort Lauderdale in 1949," Sealey recalls. "I was covering the society beat for the *News* at the time and Addie was a very successful public relations woman. Addie was very bright and very witty and lots of fun." When Addie Stiles disappeared in 1975, Sealey was a reporter for the Broward edition of *The Miami Herald*.

Adelaide's family arrived in Broward from Boston early enough and with sufficient wealth to give the Ullians acceptable local social credentials.

Addie never let on that money was a problem to her. On the contrary, the impression she gave was that having a job was simply a playful pastime. But, friends say, it was probably the press of financial reality that caused her to leave South Florida and flee to New York City. The move was a disaster for Adelaide. She had a lightning fling of a marriage with a newspaperman who left her only his name. A mental breakdown and costly visits to a psychiatrist drained her limited resources.

Still, Addie Stiles put up a good front. Her ill fortunes were simply temporary, she told her New York acquaintances. When Addie told Jean Kempinski and her husband, who went by the name Ted Kemp, of an impending inheritance, they became fast friends. Ted said he was in the securities business. Addie said her mother had just passed away at age 100 and left her a sizeable inheritance. As soon as the estate was settled, Addie claimed, she

would most likely return to the good life in Fort Lauderdale. And so she did.

Almost immediately her Lauderdale friends noticed her strange behavior. They didn't know that Addie's inheritance was not the fortune she thought it would be and told everyone it was. She inherited only about \$45,000 and two houses she couldn't afford to maintain. As a result, she was forced to rent out the main house and live in the small cottage at the rear of the property. There, alone with a radio and a hotplate, her loneliness played tricks with her mind. Although she regularly paraded nude in front of open windows, she repeatedly complained to the police about Peeping Toms.

Suddenly she reverted to the old Addie. She was spirited and bubbly and fun again. She was like a schoolgirl with a mad crush on the new boy in class. And, of course, it was close to that. A man had come into her life. Soon she began squiring him around town to all the fancy social functions and calling friends to gush on for hours about him. Her new beau's name was Michael Burnett. She called him "My Mike."

Addie Stiles was no Raquel Welch, but it is difficult to imagine Michael Burnett being anyone's heart throb. "Well for heaven's sake," a friend of Addie's recalls, "he was a fat slob." Burnett was a rather heavy man in his mid-40s, but in Addie's eyes he was Errol Flynn. He would drive her around town in his new Chrysler, take her to dinner regularly and, whenever things needed fixing in her cottage, he would send over a stocky little fellow with an English accent called Bobby Johnstone who seemed to be Burnett's indentured servant. Burnett claimed to be a corporate executive in the energy business.

Early in 1975, Addie told friends that she was planning to go to Europe that summer. By spring, bursting with fresh excitement, she said Michael had business in Europe and they would go together. One day in July, Lynwood Drake, an interior designer who rented Addie's big house, saw Michael Burnett drive up to the cottage and load Addie's suitcases into his car. Addie had told Drake and other friends that they would visit the Keys first, return to Miami, fly to Nassau, then on to Luxembourg and London.

Adelaide always kept in touch with close friends, bombarding them with phone calls and cards whenever she was away, yet no one heard a word from her, ever again. Late in August, more than five weeks after Addie Stiles left with Burnett, Drake received a telephone call from Adelaide's former Radcliffe classmate who had just returned from London. Adelaide, she said, had agreed to meet her there but never showed up and never sent

word. Did Drake know what happened to Adelaide?

Drake began calling Addie's friends and they began searching for information. Someone learned that Michael Burnett had been seen around town just the week before. Another friend remembered the name of Burnett's company in Miami. After numerous attempts, she finally reached him.

No, Burnett said, he hadn't gone to Europe with Addie.

There was a last-minute change in his business plans, he said, and he couldn't get away. Yes, Adelaide was very distraught by that, he said, and they had a bit of an argument. He had left her at the Holiday Inn on Brickell Avenue in Miami. That was the last he had seen or heard from her. He assumed she had gone straight on to Europe alone. She hadn't? And no one has heard from her? That's strange, he said. I'm very concerned, he said. I'll do some immediate checking on that. I'll check on that, Michael Burnett said, and I'll call you back.

Burnett never did call back Addie's friend so she called Drake and urged him to call the police.

The first police report of Adelaide Stiles' disappearance is dated August 28, 1975. The investigation of Adelaide's disappearance by the Fort Lauderdale police was handled routinely. More than a half dozen investigators dipped in and out of the case. It was simply an "incident," a report of an adult who hadn't been heard from recently. Given the facts known at the time, there was really no reason to give Adelaide Stiles' "disappearance" special priority. She had a history of acting strangely. Investigators couldn't reach Burnett himself. His firm, Energy Resource Associates, had closed its Miami office.

More than three months after Drake saw Adelaide Stiles drive off with Burnett, Fort Lauderdale detectives began probing the case with renewed interest that was sparked by a discovery made by reporter Pat Sealey and by information dug up by private detective Robert McGarvey, who had been hired by Adelaide's brother, Dr. Lou Ullian, now deceased.

Sealey chanced upon a 1973 book entitled *The Fountain Pen Conspiracy* by *Wall Street Journal* reporter Jonathan Kwitny. The book described a network of the top con men in the world and revealed the complexity of their scams. Among those given some prominence—including a photo—was Michael Raymond.

And that's how Pat Sealey—and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department—discovered who Michael Burnett really was.

Private investigator McGarvey found that Adelaide had about \$42,000 in her banking

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accounts when she first met Burnett. All but \$500 had been withdrawn over several weeks prior to her disappearance. Adelaide made one of her largest withdrawals on the day she was last seen. That was a cashier's check endorsed by Adelaide and re-endorsed with a stamp to Energy Resource Associates.

By the time Fort Lauderdale Police investigators began taking a serious look into Adelaide Stiles' disappearance, Michael Burnett was living in Fort Lauderdale with his associate, Englishman Bobby Johnstone, in a fancy waterfront home on Middle River Drive. The home, well known to both local and federal cops, had once belonged to the late Ken Burnstine, a Broward developer, drug smuggler and federal informant until his death in a mysterious plane crash.

Burnstine's estate was under the control of Miami attorney, Burton Levey, who had handled Burnett's business with Max Bussard, as well as Mrs. Bussard's divorce. When Fort Lauderdale detectives attempted to question Burnett about Stiles' disappearance, they were never able to reach him or confront him directly. When they contacted Levey, he said his client "did not wish to discuss Adelaide Stiles."

And that, simply and legally, was that.

About six months after Adelaide disappeared, a Fort Lauderdale detective received a call from a Miami FBI agent who had, unofficially, been of some help.

The Miami agent told the Fort Lauderdale detective that he had recently heard from one of his old contacts in the circle, a con man named Ralph Rapp, who wanted to talk about Mike Raymond.

Rapp revealed to the Fort Lauderdale police the details of Adelaide Stiles' relationship with Michael Raymond/Burnett. He said Raymond/Burnett had contacted him after he set up Energy Resource Associates in Miami. Burnett told Rapp he was looking for "investors." Rapp knew what he meant and, figuring a percentage, started making calls. One call was to Jean Kempinski's husband, Ted Kemp. What a coincidence, Kemp told Rapp. He and his wife had recently gotten friendly with a woman who had come into a sizeable inheritance and moved back to South Florida, Adelaide Stiles.

The tape recording of Rapp's interview and his signed statement are still in the Fort Lauderdale police files. Rapp, afraid that Raymond might be planning to kill him, swore that Raymond told him that he had murdered Adelaide Stiles and "another guy they're looking for in Florida."

Ralph Rapp had known Raymond for more than 20 years. They had been in numerous illegal deals together. After Raymond had set up his Florida operation, Rapp had given him a key to his apartment so Raymond could

sleep on his couch whenever he came back to New York.

In October, 1975, Rapp recalled, Raymond returned to New York and stayed in his apartment. Raymond brought with him a news article from *The Miami Herald*. It was Pat Sealey's piece about Adelaide Stiles' disappearance, the one that revealed that Michael Raymond was the notorious swindler Michael Burnett.

"He laughed about it," Rapp said, "He had a clipping of the newspaper article which he let me read. Then he said, 'You see, all this

**Ralph Rapp:
Burnett said to me,
'I had to
kill her because of
that goddamn
Kempinski warning
her about me.'**"

was brought out and I had to kill her because of that goddamn Kempinski (Ted Kemp) warning her about me. If he had only kept his mouth shut, I would never have had to do it."

Toward the end of the questioning the detective asked Rapp "As it stands now, are you in fear of your life?"

"Absolutely," Rapp answered. "The sooner he's arrested on this, the safer I'll be. I won't feel safe until he's arrested."

Ralph Rapp still doesn't feel safe. The Fort Lauderdale police never arrested Michael Burnett. Although detectives corroborated a good deal of what Ralph Rapp told them and felt strongly that an indictment should be brought against Burnett, they were persuaded by the State Attorney's office that they needed more evidence. According to one of the detectives, an assistant state attorney said that in the absence of Adelaide Stiles' body and any statement from Burnett himself, it would be a difficult case to prove. Besides, Adelaide wasn't the best of victims; she had been too flighty and unreliable. (That then-assistant state attorney, now a judge, today says he has no recollection of such a contention. In fact, he doesn't remember the case at all.)

Not long after Ralph Rapp gave his statement, the Fort Lauderdale homicide squad got a call from a police department in the Florida Keys. The caller said that a diver, who just happened to be a Metro-Dade cop, was div-

ing in the shallow reefs off the Keys and found a suitcase with a tag bearing the name and Fort Lauderdale address of an Adelaide Stiles.

The suitcase was never retrieved from the Keys police. According to a supervising sergeant in the homicide squad, "Things were different then" and he had problems getting permission to spend the money to send a man down to the Keys. By the time a Fort Lauderdale detective decided to go down to the Keys on his own time and expense several weeks later to get the suitcase, it had been thrown away. Says the detective today: "To them it was just an old suitcase full of waterlogged clothes and, since we didn't come down to get it right away, they figured it mustn't have been important."

THE STILES INVESTIGATION

Without Burnett's cooperation or a body, there were few clues to pursue in the case of Adelaide Stiles.

Records at the Holiday Inn showed a woman named Adelaide Stiles checked in the evening of July 21, 1975, the day she was seen leaving her cottage. She paid cash in advance for one night, stayed for two and left without paying for the second night. No one at the hotel remembered her or could identify her photograph.

That made the detectives wonder if it really was Stiles who checked into that hotel. Today, given evidence that developed later, they still wonder.

The Fort Lauderdale investigators felt they had hit a wall. When they learned that Burnett was really the international con man named Michael Raymond who had testified before the McClellan committee, they felt the next step required FBI cooperation. It turned out to be a difficult step.

There is no official public record indicating that Michael Raymond was then—or is now—in the Federal Government Witness Protection Program. But, in his 1977 book *The Alias Program*, Washington attorney and CBS correspondent Fred Graham specifically says Michael Raymond was "given the new identity of Michael Burnett by the Justice Department."

The Fort Lauderdale police didn't have to read Fred Graham's book to figure that out. A check of the computerized national criminal information network, a system run by the FBI out of which local law enforcement agencies can pull rap sheets on almost anyone who has ever been arrested on a federal charge, revealed that Raymond was no longer listed. Although Raymond was a major criminal with a long record, the Justice Department had made him disappear.

Gerald Shur, the Justice Department's for-

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mer chief of Intelligence who has run the Witness Protection Program since its inception, told Graham that he was never informed that Raymond was being sought by local police anywhere.

Yet FBI agents in all three of the Bureau's Gold Coast offices—Miami, Lauderdale and Palm Beach—were aware of Stiles' disappearance and Burnett's involvement with her. According to a Fort Lauderdale homicide detective then supervising the case, the fact that Raymond was or had been in the Federal Witness Protection Program was a definite stumbling block in his unit's investigation.

Nevertheless, the FBI isn't a cohesive monolith. When contact was made with a few individual agents who may not have been aware of Raymond's special status, Fort Lauderdale detectives did glean some information. One Miami agent, for instance, had known Raymond for years in New York and worked with him as an informant on a major case in Los Angeles, where millions in city payroll checks had been stolen and forged. Burnett received a \$50,000 payoff for that. The agent didn't know how many other cases Burnett was working as an informant, but other sources indicated he was being used by the Bureau in New York and Chicago.

Another Fort Lauderdale detective, seeking information from the FBI's Palm Beach office, talked to an agent unfamiliar with Burnett's background. The agent said he was just working a stolen securities and bank fraud case that involved Burnett and he had dug up a thick file. He said he would be glad to cooperate with the local detective. However, when the detective went to Palm Beach to review the file, he was told that agent had gone on sick leave and that the Bureau's files would not be made available.

THE END OF ANNE SESSA

About 18 months after Adelaide Stiles left her cottage for last time, a wealthy 63-year-old woman who lived at the luxurious Sea Ranch Club, wrote a letter:

"Dear Sir: I am writing in response to your ad placed in the *Fort Lauderdale News*. I am an intelligent, sincere, cultured widow, five feet three, blond, blue eyes, weight 115 pounds, considered attractive. I live in a condominium overlooking the ocean in the Fort Lauderdale area. I am also financially secure. Snapshot enclosed is the most recent, taken on December 3rd, 1976."

The enclosed photo showed an attractive woman in her 60s, well dressed, hair neatly coiffed. She wore a diamond mine of jewelry.

Anne Sessa always wore a lot of jewelry—"gobs of it," as one friend put it. Another friend noted she had a diamond ring worth

about \$50,000. "She always traveled with pouches of jewelry in her handbag."

She also had bags of uncut precious gems in her bank vault, worth at least a quarter of a million dollars. Anne Sessa's late husband had been in the jewelry business.

Anne Sessa's friends say she wasn't the type to respond to personal ads. The man to whom she sent the letter turned it over to the Broward Sheriff when he read in the newspaper that she had disappeared. He wanted the police to know that he hadn't even responded to her letter, thank God, and had nothing to do with her disappearance.

The police knew he didn't. The police knew that the man who may have had something to do with it was the one Anne Sessa had gone to Europe with several weeks before she disappeared.

Anne's friend Sylvia Hutchinson remembers almost exactly when the European trip was set up: early January, 1977. She remembers because the yoga class she was taking with Anne Sessa was recessed for Christmas week. Only a couple of days after the last class, Anne called her and told her that a man named Michael invited her to go to Geneva with him. "She was very excited," Sylvia Hutchinson recalls, "and she told me that she was going, of course. I said 'Well, have fun.' You know, I mean, what do you say?"

Anne Sessa's daughter Ginny, who lives in New Jersey, had received a postcard from her mother early that January. It was a photograph of a beautiful park in Geneva. "Our hotel is situated across from this photo," she wrote. "Michael and I are spending a few days in Geneva, then perhaps Paris for the weekend, depending on the time limit...London."

Her friends say it wasn't like Anne Sessa to go cavorting around Europe with a man she had only recently met. She had been introduced to him by her late husband's stock advisor. Friends think she must have become infatuated with this fellow Michael because, in mid-January, as soon as she returned from Europe, she immediately started telling friends she was leaving again with Michael for the Caribbean and Mexico.

On February 2, 1977, the security guards at Sea Ranch Club helped Anne Sessa load her luggage into her new yellow Lincoln Continental. She told them she was "headed south" for a couple of weeks. Her son David, who lives in Illinois, recalls: "She said she was going to Caracas and then Mexico with Michael. She really seemed fascinated with him, he was a mysterious person, a financier."

More than two months later, on April 19, Dick Simpson, then a lieutenant in the Broward Sheriff's Office homicide section, received a memo from one of his superiors: "George

Gore, an attorney, called the Sheriff regarding his client, Mrs. Anne Sessa, 63, who is possibly missing. Mr. Gore, who handles Mrs. Sessa's estate, valued in the neighborhood of \$500,000, stated his client has not been seen or heard from since early February and that her son, daughter and residents of her condominium...are concerned about her safety. She is rumored to have been going on a trip to Mexico and Geneva with one Michael Burnett, 2109 Middle River Drive..."

Simpson contacted attorney Gore and Anne Sessa's friends at Sea Ranch Club. He discovered it was very unusual for her to be gone for so long without keeping touch with relatives and friends. She hadn't contacted attorney Gore about her taxes, which was also unusual for her, and she missed a maintenance payment on her condo, again very unusual. Simpson also learned Anne Sessa had told her friends she was leaving the country with Michael Burnett.

The next day, Lt. Simpson made an unannounced call at the large home on Middle River Drive. He knocked on the front door but didn't get a response. He walked around the house and encountered a stocky, rough-hewn fellow standing by the pool. Simpson would later learn that it was Bobby Johnstone. He asked Simpson who he was. Simpson told him and then asked his name. Johnstone said nothing. He walked to a table, picked up a pen and wrote something on a piece of paper. He returned and handed the paper to Simpson. "This is my lawyer's name and telephone number," he said. "If you have any questions, ask him."

Scratched on the paper was the name of Burton Levey. Simpson returned to his office and called Levey. No, Levey said, he didn't know exactly where Michael Burnett was. He was traveling somewhere in the country. No, Levey said, he had never heard of Anne Sessa. Yes, he would make an attempt to contact Burnett and have him call Simpson.

Simpson never heard from Burnett. When he got back in touch with Burnett's attorney, Levey said Burnett did not want to talk with Simpson or anyone else about Mrs. Sessa.

That didn't surprise Simpson. By that time, he had been contacted by Fort Lauderdale homicide detectives and been told about Burnett's background.

Simpson discovered that Sessa had withdrawn about \$20,000 from a savings account prior to her disappearance. Not only was all the jewelry she kept in her home gone, but so was the \$250,000 worth of gems she kept in a bank safety deposit box. Bonds she kept in the same box were also missing. Simpson learned that Sessa called her broker at Merrill, Lynch and asked that all her municipal

bonds and stocks handled by that firm, about \$150,000 worth, be delivered to her home. The broker said she didn't give a reason.

Broward Deputy Sheriff Dick Simpson now believes that when Anne Sessa wrote to friends about Michael Burnett's "office" in Geneva, she was referring to a front called Kirtaube Establishment Vaduz. Originally, both he and attorney Gore thought Kirtaube was a bank because Shearson Haydon Stone told them that the securities she had transferred to its Geneva office went to an account at Kirtaube and from there were sold.

They discovered, however, that the Kirtaube's address was that of an attorney named Rolf Bracher. When Gore wrote to Bracher for information, he received a curt reply: "First of all, let me tell you that Kirtaube Establishment is not a bank, but a legal entity of Liechtenstein. This establishment, by the way, has been legally wound up. Furthermore...Mrs. Sessa is not my client. However, Kirtaube Establishment and its principal owner were my clients and...for reasons of professional secrecy, I cannot give you any information."

What happened to the proceeds of Anne Sessa's securities is yet to be discovered. What has been found is Sessa's yellow Lincoln Continental. It was abandoned at Miami's airport. According to a parking stub, it was put there the day after Sessa left her condo. There was no record at the Miami airport that she had purchased a plane ticket to anywhere.

Today, Dick Simpson says that one of the key stumbling blocks in his investigation was his inability to get the cooperation of the FBI and, through them, Interpol, in order to pursue the foreign aspects of the case. The Broward Sheriff's file supports his contention. On the last page of BSO chronological reports, it is noted that an agent in the Fort Lauderdale FBI office was sent a complete copy of all reports on the Sessa case. That agent said he would contact his Washington office which, in turn, "would contact the Embassy in Switzerland in an attempt to ascertain information concerning Mrs. Sessa and the bond that was cashed in Geneva, and also any information concerning Mr. Michael Burnett, aka Michael Raymond. Investigation to be continued."

Although the FBI never told the Broward Sheriff's Office the results of any probe into Sessa's disappearance, it investigated the transfer of her stolen securities to ascertain if the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property statute had been violated.

According to Chicago FBI agent Edward Hegarty, "The FBI investigation regarding the possible stolen Sessa securities concluded when the investigation determined that Sessa had personally appeared at a bank to cash

in the bonds and her identity was verified by both photograph and signature." Hegarty added that since the bonds had apparently not been stolen before they were transported to Europe, "jurisdiction did not exist to continue the federal investigation."

The FBI's assumption clearly is that the woman at the bank was Sessa, although it is not known if the FBI confirmed that separately.

The body of a woman who fit Sessa's description turned up in Geneva shortly after she was reported missing. The body was never positively identified.

**Police found
Sessa had withdrawn
\$150,000 in
bonds prior to
her disappearance.
Gems worth \$250,000
were gone**

TRACKING BURNETT

It is difficult to track Burnett's activities in detail after Sessa's disappearance. Links to him in shady deals pop up in New York, Chicago, Dallas, Switzerland and the British West Indies. In fact, late in 1977, an affidavit filed in the New York Attorney General's Office charged Burnett with being a principal in a mysterious Netherland Antilles bank that scammed more than \$10 million from investors. Somehow Burnett kept out of whatever legal holds local law enforcement authorities tried to put on him.

Burnett surfaced—under the alias Paul Fenton—in February, 1979, when he was arrested by the FBI in New York, charged with mail and wire fraud, and accused of swindling a number of people in Austria by exchanging worthless checks drawn on a non-existent bank for \$1 million in African currency. He was remanded to the US Marshal's Office (the federal agency that administers the Witness Protection Program) and, in spite of his lengthy history, permitted to post bail. He immediately skipped town.

Three months later, *The Miami Herald* ran this modest headline: *Slick Con Man Arrested at Miami International*. Burnett—using a passport with the name of Myron Herbert Solnet—was arrested at MIA as he stepped off a plane from Nassau. He was charged with jumping bail, wire fraud and related crimes. *The Herald* reported that he was sent back

to New York for trial. The report concluded, "He could receive 10 years in prison if convicted on the various charges."

George Gore, the Lauderdale attorney who has long been attempting to wrap up Sessa's estate, has made it his business to keep track of Burnett. Asked recently if he knew where Burnett is, he answered, "Yes. He's in jail in New York. They gave him eight years."

The Fort Lauderdale detectives who probed Sessa's disappearance, the Broward Sheriff's Office homicide investigators who handled the Sessa case, and even a couple of retired FBI agents who once worked Burnett and keep abreast of inside information through the Old Boy ex-agent network—all assumed Burnett was finally serving some substantial time in prison.

They were all wrong.

According to the Federal Inmate Locator Service, a centralized information system in Washington, DC, Burnett was sentenced to eight years in federal prison on June 28, 1979. He was not sent to prison until August 12, 1982.

It is difficult to determine where Burnett was and what he was doing between his sentencing and the start of his prison term. Information from a knowledgeable source indicates that he was again working as an FBI informant. He frequently called a friend in Miami and said he was in FBI custody in a special facility in Bergen County, NJ. He seemed to have freedom to come and go; the calls he made were always from the warden's telephone. Burnett bragged that he was the warden's private chef.

On December 16, 1983, only 16 months after he officially began his eight-year sentence, Burnett was paroled.

Federal parolees, just like state parolees, must adhere to very stringent rules of behavior. One serious violation of parole would be getting arrested again for committing a felony. Another would be to have a criminal association with a convicted felon. To commit a felony in the company of a convicted felon would usually send a parolee back to jail.

Unless the parolee is Michael Burnett.

ARRESTED IN NASHVILLE

In mid-summer 1984, burglary detectives of the Metro Police Department in Nashville, Tennessee, arrested two men who were preparing to rob a large home in Nashville's exclusive Belle Meade area. The tip about the burglary had come from the FBI through an informant in Chicago. The FBI said the burglars were specifically interested in securities and stocks which supposedly were kept in a safe in the home of the corporate president they were going to rob.

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The Nashville police staked out the home. But the FBI agents said they didn't want to endanger the lives of the executive's family and insisted that the Nashville police arrest the would-be burglars when they stopped their rented van in a mall parking lot to make last-minute preparations. While it would have been difficult to prove that the men were about to commit a burglary, a state offense, the police and FBI agents discovered the men were armed when they pulled them from the van. They had an automatic pistol and an Ingram submachine gun with a silencer. Possession of an unlicensed automatic weapon is a federal offense. And both men were on federal parole.

Considering their individual backgrounds, they were unlikely partners. One was a 34-year-old drug dealer named Alan Russell Varley. Charged in 1981 for importing cocaine, he had been given a 12-year sentence. Varley hadn't spent much time in prison before his parole. Neither had the other parolee with whom he was arrested: Michael Burnett.

Both men were charged by the state. State officials, unaware of previous links between Burnett and the FBI, thought it odd that the FBI insisted that federal charges be filed and that the suspects be placed under federal custody. A Nashville police source said, "The feds raised hell because they wanted them charged in a federal court. We couldn't figure out why. Finally, one of the agents told us that they used one of those guys before and they wanted to have control over him."

Varley and Burnett pled guilty to the federal charges on October 22, 1984. The docket indicates that US Attorney Joe Brown is personally handling the case. A court clerk confirms that this is unusual. Burnett brought a new attorney to court: New York lawyer William Aronwald. When Aronwald requested that Burnett's bond be reduced from \$250,000 to \$50,000, the US Attorney did not object. Sentencing was set for December 3, 1984.

When contacted recently, Nashville burglary detective Joe Blakely, who helped make the arrest, expressed surprise that Burnett was on the street again. The FBI had led him to believe that Burnett's bond had been revoked and he was serving a five-year sentence.

What actually happened appears to indicate that the Justice Department and the FBI went around local law enforcement to use Burnett for their own needs.

Reporter Kirk Loggins of the Nashville *Tennessean* said he got the impression from Nashville District Attorney Tom Shriver that the FBI had asked Shriver not to press state charges. "Once the federal people got into it," says Loggins, "he just completely got out of

it. Shriver told me that the feds wanted to use this to force Burnett to help them on something else."

Loggins checked the state court record which, he said, indicated that both suspects had been bound over on weapons charges. "The clerk's office doesn't show they ever got out, but obviously they're gone," he said.

The federal court records were more revealing—at least for a while. They indicated that Burnett's sentencing date had been repeatedly postponed at the request of the US Attorney. However, the day after the Justice Department

**"...obviously," said
Asst. US Atty. Connelly,
"the extent to
which Burnett
cooperates with us
can't do anything
but help him."**

learned *Miami/South Florida Magazine* had been checking Burnett's records, a special order was added to the docket. The US Attorney suddenly requested that Burnett's file be placed under court seal and kept from public scrutiny.

There was yet another indication that the feds were again employing Burnett. Federal sources with access to a centralized information system in Washington suddenly refused to reveal if Michael Burnett was still listed. Obviously, the FBI had red-flagged the file, indicating that not only Raymond's name been expunged, but so was Burnett's. So now, as far as local law enforcement agencies could learn, the man had never existed as a federal criminal.

Such record shifting within a big bureaucracy can sometimes backfire.

The FBI was bound to notify the US Parole Commission that Burnett was arrested in Nashville in July, 1984. The Parole Commission, under its own policy, was bound to revoke Burnett's parole on the double violation of committing a felony with a convicted felon.

Yet, in a letter responding to an official request for information about Burnett's status, the Parole Commission admitted: "On July 12, 1984, the Parole Commission issued a parole violation warrant against Mr. Burnett. The current location of Mr. Burnett is unknown."

The federal agency officially charged with the responsibility of maintaining custody of a convicted felon doesn't know where he is.

The Parole Commission's records show only that Burnett lists his home address as an apartment on West 84 St. in Manhattan.

It is in a nondescript six-story building in a fairly affluent neighborhood off West End Avenue. Burnett's name is printed on plastic tape on a mailbox in the vestibule. Our day-long on-site attempt to contact him there eventually provoked an angry response. A woman shouted from behind the double-locked door: "Go away! He doesn't want to talk to you!"

The attempt generated a telephone call early the next morning from William Aronwald, Burnett's attorney. He said he was aware of the attempts to contact Burnett. "The bottom line," he said, "is that he doesn't want to talk to you and he doesn't want to talk to the Fort Lauderdale Police and that's all there is to it."

Asked why Burnett had been uncooperative with the local law enforcement agencies, Aronwald said, "It wasn't that he was uncooperative. Each of us has a right not to talk with anyone we want. The thing you're talking about, as far as he's concerned, is ancient history."

Aronwald is a well-known and respected criminal attorney in New York. Before entering private practice, he was Chief of the Criminal Division of the US Attorney's Office in New York and was head of the Organized Crime Strike Force. Aronwald is very well aware of Michael Burnett's "ancient history."

THE CHICAGO STORY

Initially, The FBI and the Justice Department ignored our efforts to determine Burnett's whereabouts. However, when a representative of the Miami FBI office was questioned about information we had developed, including our discovery of Burnett's Nashville arrest, the Bureau reacted quickly.

First to fly in for a meeting was Edward Hegarty, special agent in charge of the FBI's Chicago division.

Hegarty said Burnett was in his custody and was being used as the sting man in a major ABSCAM-type operation involving corruption among some of Chicago's ranking politicians and bureaucrats. Burnett was pretending to be the representative of a company attempting to get lucrative city fee collection contracts and making illegal payoffs to those who said they could help.

Those nibbling at the bait, Hegarty said, included a Chicago alderman (equivalent to a city councilman), a department chief, a deputy department head, a former chief investigator, a few lawyers with political connections and a prominent businessman.

Next to visit was Assistant US Attorney Vin-

THE UNTOUCHABLE

cent J. Connelly, chief of the Justice Department's criminal litigation division in Chicago and head of the investigation. He was accompanied by a Miami FBI agent.

The meetings were on the record.

Connelly said Burnett approached the FBI after his Nashville arrest and told the Bureau that he was involved in bribing public officials in Chicago, a city where Burnett had earlier pled his criminal career. (In fact, Burnett has long been acquainted with a few of the people he is now setting up.)

Connelly said the undercover use of Burnett was cleared by a group of Bureau and Justice officials who form the "Undercover Committee," an in-house watchdog panel created in reaction to Congress's strong criticism of the Abscam operation.

Connelly claimed no specific deal has been struck with Burnett in return for his cooperation, but arrangements have been made to postpone his sentencing in Nashville until the Chicago operation is wrapped up.

Nashville's US Attorney has the power to ask the judge for a lengthy sentence for Burnett. "But obviously," Connelly said, "the extent to which Burnett cooperates with us can't do anything but help him."

THE FBI'S RESPONSE

The decision that the FBI and the Justice Department would reveal their working relationship with Burnett to us was made at the highest levels of both the Bureau and Justice in Washington. Assistant US Attorney Connelly said it was repugnant to them to reveal Burnett's involvement. "I'm doing it," he said, "strictly because I feel it's necessary to keep the investigation alive."

Thus, Burnett continued to work for the federal government. Using his talents as a gourmet chef, he brought bribery investigation targets to his luxury apartment for lavish meals. They came, they dined, they talked, they took payoffs and they were video-taped. The government's grocery and liquor bills for Chef Michael's corruption kitchen, says the operation's chief, have been outrageous.

Pressed to explain the Bureau's relationship with Burnett, the extent of its investigations, if any, into Burnett's involvement with the disappearances, and its cooperation, or lack thereof, with local law enforcement agencies, Hegarty sent a formal written reply to our questions. The reply, we were told, was cleared by top Justice Department officials in Washington.

"Burnett's prior criminal record and activities were known at the time it was decided to use him as an undercover operative," special agent Hegarty writes, explaining that,

"...it is rare to find persons in a position to cooperate with federal investigators...particularly rare to find someone who is engaged in present corruption."

He states, "There was not (then)—nor is there now—sufficient information to link Burnett to the three...disappearances by even a preponderance of the available evidence, much less the standard that would apply in order to seek a successful prosecution..."

He notes, "At no time during the Chicago investigation has Burnett revealed, either knowingly or inadvertently, any information which is probative regarding the disappearances." And Hegarty adds, "through his attorney, Burnett has maintained his innocence regarding these unsolved disappearances."

The letter acknowledges, for the first time, that the FBI questioned Burnett about the disappearances of Bussard and Stiles shortly after they occurred. Hegarty writes that Burnett told the FBI he had 'no information' about the whereabouts of either person or about Bussard's activities before he disappeared. The letter claims, "...the negative results of these interviews would not have aided the local law enforcement efforts to locate Stiles or Bussard."

Local police disagree. During its interrogations of Burnett, the FBI apparently did not have the intimate details of these cases possessed by on-the-scene investigators. Until now, local police were not informed that the FBI had ever questioned Burnett on these matters.

Hegarty confirms that the FBI had initial contact with an informant who claimed direct knowledge of Burnett's involvement with the deaths of two of the missing South Floridians; the FBI does not identify the informant. Other information indicates that he was Ralph Rapp. The FBI now says it is ignorant of what Rapp revealed. Hegarty says only, "This individual was persuaded to discuss this matter with the appropriate police department and...was introduced to a police investigator who interrogated him/her, outside the presence of the FBI."

Hegarty states that, in terms of Burnett's possible involvement with the missing people, the Bureau "did not fail to disclose information or actively seek to hinder the resolution of those potential crimes by local law enforcement."

Local police records, however, show a lack of cooperation by the FBI and a deliberate reluctance to use the full force of its enormous resources to help solve the crimes. The records also clearly indicate that when the Bureau previously promised it would help, it did not follow through.

Only recently did the FBI furnish additional information from its files to Ft. Lauderdale police, whose investigation is still open. As long as they keep these three cases open, local police contend, there's the chance of a break.

UPDATE: BARBARA BISHOP

Just recently, Lauderdale detectives located someone they've been seeking a long time: Barbara Bishop, who was Burnett's secretary when he set up the front corporations in which Stiles and Bussard invested.

One of the detectives noted that Bishop seemed to be expecting them. She opened the door immediately and never asked for identification.

She lives alone, except for a sadly scabby old dog, in a box-cluttered furniture-less apartment. She works at various telephone sales jobs and, she claimed, is barely getting by. Her Datsun 280ZX was going to be repossessed, she said. Things went downhill for her after Burnett left town.

She claimed she didn't know Burnett was out of jail and said she wondered why the police would want to question her about anything. She said she never had any idea of any of Burnett's activities, only that he handled "investments." She said that's why he liked her. "I never bugged him or asked him a lot of questions about what he was doing," she said. "And I should keep my mouth shut."

She expressed surprise when told Adelaide Stiles had disappeared. Energy Resource Associates had closed down "about that time," she explained, and she returned to New York and waited four months before Burnett opened another South Florida firm.

Then, as if with a sudden realization, she asked, "Did something happen to Adelaide?" Yes, she was told, "something" did happen to Adelaide.

Later, she quietly asked, "Did you find the body?"

The interview with Bishop continued for more than an hour of rambling conversation. She gave detectives other, more specific responses, which they won't reveal. Bishop eventually became defensive in the face of police questions and, at one point, she became angry.

"If you think I stood there and watched a man kill someone," she said, "you're crazy!"

Local detectives' current contact with Bishop adds one more piece to the puzzle of Michael Burnett and of the disappearances of Adelaide Stiles, Max Bussard and Anne Sessa. His lawyer said Burnett feels that what happened several years ago is "ancient history."

It isn't. ☹

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1347937-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 2
Page 4 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 5 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

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293

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ANALYST

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NO
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YES ☒
NO ☒
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FCI-1

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

DATE: 01-16-2013

CLASSIFIED BY NSICG/SBS

REASON: 1.4 (c)

DECLASSIFY ON: 01-16-2038

(S) Date [redacted]

b1
b3

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
 ATTN: INTD CI-2D

(S)

(S) FROM : SAC, WMFO [redacted] (P) (CI-9)

(S) SUBJECT : [redacted]
 OO: WMFO

~~ALL MARKINGS, NOTATIONS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION
 CONTAINED IN THIS COMMUNICATION ARE CLASSIFIED "SECRET" UNLESS
 OTHERWISE NOTED.~~

(S)

b1
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~~SECRET~~
 CLASSIFIED BY: 4451
 DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

(S)

3-Bureau
 (1-INTD CI-3B)

②-Miami

2-WMFO

1-[redacted]

CMS:cms

(S)

(S) 100 [redacted]

~~SECRET~~

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number) (Time)

Per [redacted]

(S)

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 WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

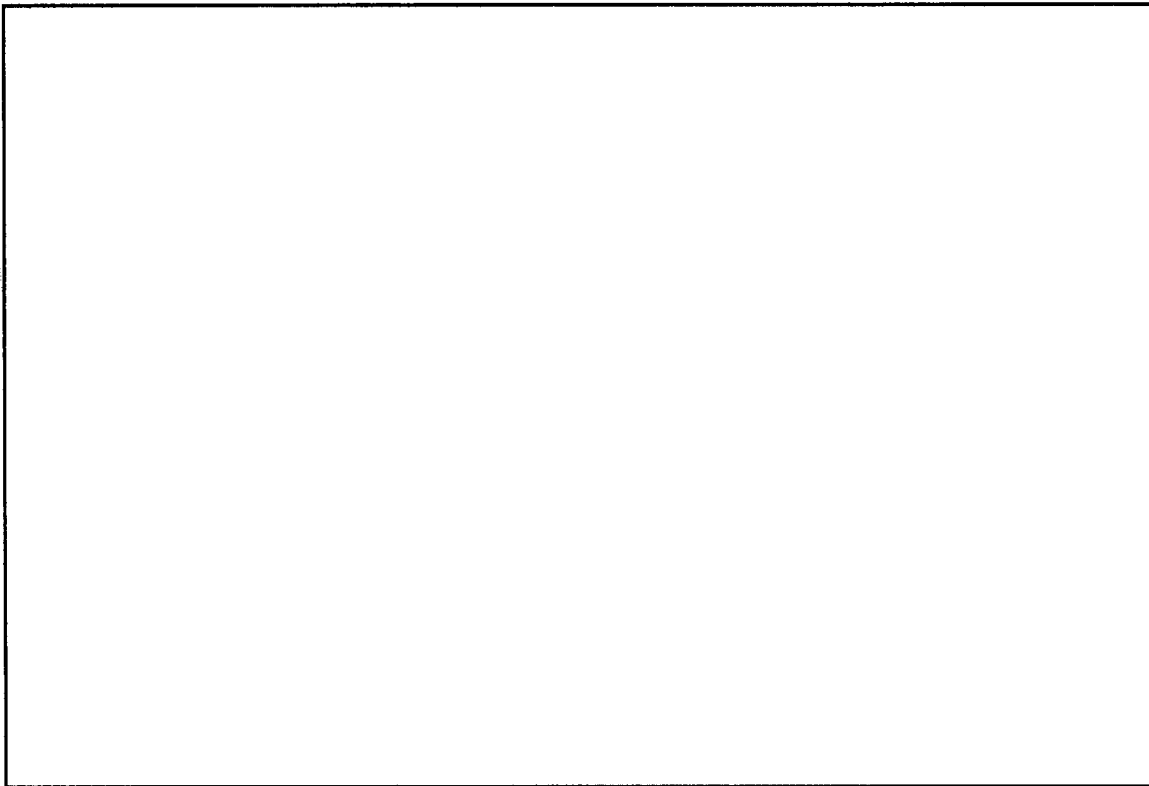
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1/16/2

1/16/2

~~SECRET~~

(S)



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LEAD:

MIAMI DIVISION

(S)



b1
b3

~~SECRET~~

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~



(S) To : SAC, MIAMI [REDACTED] (P)

Date 10/19/92

b1
b3

From : SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Subject: CHANGED
GAETON JOSEPH FONZI

(S) [REDACTED]
OO: MIAMI

b1
b3

~~This communication is classified "~~SECRET~~" in its entirety.~~

(S)

b1
b3

Title is marked "CHANGED" in order to reflect captioned subject's name as determined from investigation.

(S)

b1
b3

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI
7532 West Treasure Drive
North Bay Village, Florida 33141
Fl. DL #: F520-290-35-370-0
Sex: Male; DOB: 10/10/35

b6
b7C

A review of the computerized records for the State of Florida's Driver's License Records for FONZI determined the same information as above with the following additions:

SSA #: 136-28-8924
Height: 6'1"
Class E Operator License - Restricts driving to daylight only.

~~SECRET~~
CLASSIFIED BY: G-3
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

(S)

(S)

1 - [REDACTED]

DATE: 01-16-2013
CLASSIFIED BY NSICG/SBS
REASON: 1.4 (c)
DECLASSIFY ON: 01-16-2038

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 19 1992	
FBI - MIAMI	

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b3

(S)

~~SECRET~~

b1
b3

A review of computerized records for DADE County Real Estate Properties determined the following for 7532 West Treasure Drive, North Bay Village, Florida 33141:

Registered Owner: Gaeton J. Fonzi & [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Southern Bell Telephone, Company Information Operator (411) did not locate a telephone number for GAETON JOSEPH FONZI.

A review of the Bresser's Criss/Cross Directory located the following for telephone number [REDACTED]

Subscriber:
Address:

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Southern Bell Telephone, Company Information Operator (411) confirmed that telephone Number [REDACTED] is subscribed to by: [REDACTED] at: above address.

No record for [REDACTED] was located in the State of Florida's Driver's License Microfiche Records.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

DATE: 01-16-2013
CLASSIFIED BY NSICG/SBS
REASON: 1.4 (c)
DECLASSIFY ON: 01-16-2038

13A032

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (Attention: Records Management Division)

(S)

DATE: 10/27/92

Field File Number

b1
b3

(S)

TIT

This document is classified
~~'SECRET' in its entirety~~

Re: ☐ File Destruction Program:

In connection with captioned investigation, it is requested that a search of FBIHQ indices and files be conducted concerning the individual/organization listed below to determine the office of origin and the identity of any past case(s).

☒ Name Check Program:

In connection with captioned investigation, it is requested that a search of FBIHQ indices and files be conducted concerning the individual/organization listed below to determine if information exists which is identical or possibly identical with the individual/organization listed below.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Limit Search to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All References | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security References Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrict to Locality of _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References) | |

Individual GACTON JOSEPH FONZI	Age 57	Sex M	Race CAH.
Aliases			

FBI Identification Number	Social Security Account Number 136-28-8724
---------------------------	---

Other Identifying Numbers

Date of Birth 10/10/35	Birthplace
-------------------------------	------------

Residence **7532 W. TREASURE DR. NO. BAY VILLAGE, FL 33141**

Organization Name

Organization Address

☐ See reverse side of form for additional information which may assist FBIHQ in conducting a thorough file review.

Headquarters Reply:

- ☐ On the basis of information furnished, no record located.
- ☐ File Destruction Program:
- ☐ Above described individual/organization is referred to in the files of the:
- Field Office(s) _____
- File Number(s) _____

☐ Name Check Program:

- ☐ Information contained in FBIHQ indices and files possibly responsive to your request has been referred to the
- ☐ Criminal Investigative Division
- ☐ Intelligence Division for response.

Return Reply to:
SAC, **DE**

Send copies to:

Classified By: **6-3**
Declassify on: **OADR**

13A032

SECRET

(S)

b1
b3

~~SECRET~~

Memorandum

(S) To : SAC, MIAMI [redacted] (P)

Date 11/5/92

b1
b3

From : SA [redacted]

DATE: 01-16-2013

b6
b7C

CLASSIFIED BY NSICG/SBS

REASON: 1.4 (c)

DECLASSIFY ON: 01-16-2038

Subject: GAETON JOSEPH FONZI

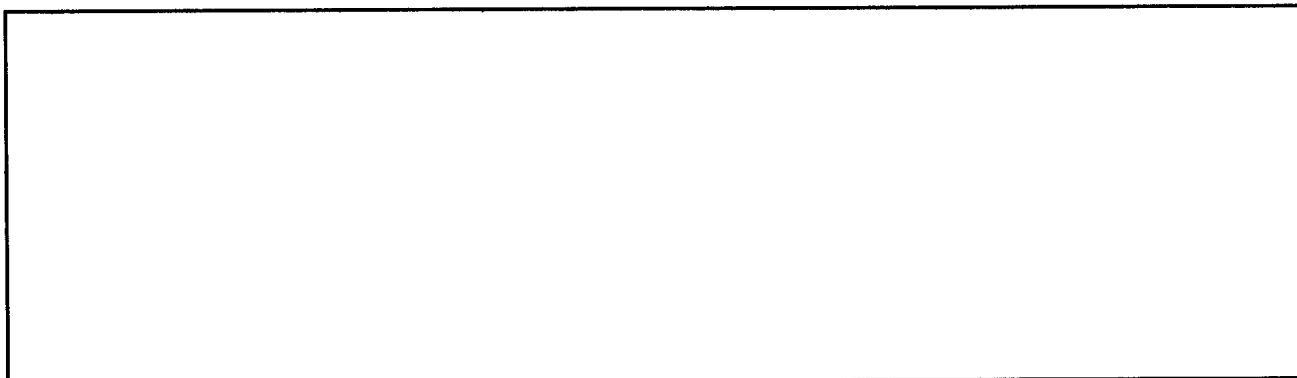
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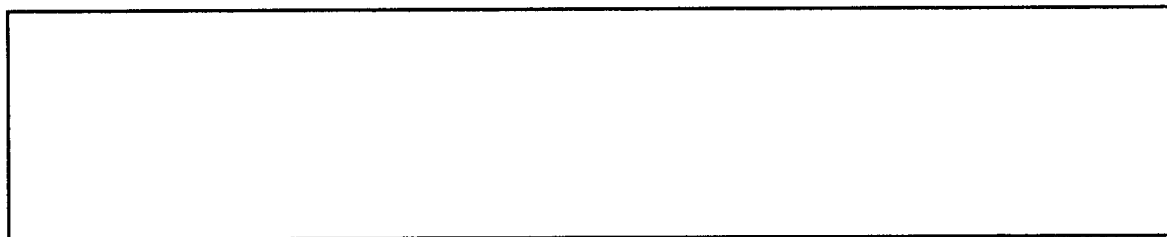
OO: MIAMI

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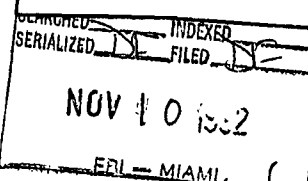
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1 - MIAMI

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Declassify on: OADRb1
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FCI-1

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TO: SAC,

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- ☐ Albuquerque
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- ☐ Boston
- ☐ Buffalo
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- ☐ Houston
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- ☐ Knoxville
- ☐ Las Vegas
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- ☒ Miami
- ☐ Milwaukee
- ☐ Minneapolis
- ☐ Mobile
- ☐ Newark
- ☐ New Haven
- ☐ New Orleans
- ☐ New York City
- ☐ Norfolk
- ☐ ASAC, Brooklyn-Queens (MRA)

TO: LEGAT,

- ☐ Oklahoma City
- ☐ Omaha
- ☐ Philadelphia
- ☐ Phoenix
- ☐ Pittsburgh
- ☐ Portland
- ☐ Richmond
- ☐ Sacramento
- ☐ St. Louis
- ☐ Salt Lake City
- ☐ San Antonio
- ☐ San Diego
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- ☐ Springfield
- ☐ Tampa
- ☐ Washington Metropolitan Field
- ☐ Quantico
- ☐ Bangkok
- ☐ Bern
- ☐ Bogota
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- ☐ Bridgetown
- ☐ Brussels
- ☐ Canberra
- ☐ Hong Kong
- ☐ London
- ☐ Manila
- ☐ Mexico City
- ☐ Montevideo
- ☐ Ottawa
- ☐ Panama City
- ☐ Paris
- ☐ Rome
- ☐ Tokyo

11-2-92
Date

RE:

Gaston Joseph Fonzi

(S)

- ☐ For information
- ☐ Retention optional
- ☐ For appropriate action
- ☐ Surep, by _____
- ☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources ☐ paraphrase contents.
- ☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

Your original FD-493 captioned as above and dated 10-27-92 has been searched in FBIHQ indices and has been forwarded to John J. Dur Rm. 4147, Ext. _____ or appropriate handling. If you have any questions regarding this search, please contact them.

FILE MAINTANANCE & RETRIEVAL SUBUNIT
INFORMATION SERVICES
RECORDS MANAGEMENT UNIT
INFORMATION SERVICES SECTION
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT DIVISION
ROOM ~~4220~~, EXTENSION 3611

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FBI

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FBI - MIAMI	

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Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 10-9-84)

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC,

TO: LEGAT,

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
☐ Alexandria
☐ Anchorage
☐ Atlanta
☐ Baltimore
☐ Birmingham
☐ Boston
☐ Buffalo
☐ Butte
☐ Charlotte
☐ Chicago
☐ Cincinnati
☐ Cleveland
☐ Columbia
☐ Dallas
☐ Denver
☐ Detroit
☐ El Paso
☐ Honolulu
☐ ASAC, Brooklyn-Queens (MRA)

☐ Houston
☐ Indianapolis
☐ Jackson
☐ Jacksonville
☐ Kansas City
☐ Knoxville
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☐ Tokyo

11/10/92

Date

RE:

DATE: 01-16-2013
CLASSIFIED BY NSICG/SBS
REASON: 1.4 (c)
DECLASSIFY ON: 01-16-2038

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(S) OO:MIAMI

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☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____
dated _____

Remarks:

THIS COMMUNICATION IS CLASSIFIED "~~SECRET~~"
~~IN ITS ENTIRETY.~~

A SEARCH OF BUREAU INDICES REVEALED
NO PERTINENT INFORMATION

b1
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REGARDING CAPTIONED SUBJECT.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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FBI/DOJ
MIAMI

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DATE: 01-16-2013
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REASON: 1.4 (c)
DECLASSIFY ON: 01-16-2038

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Routing Slip

0-7 (Rev. 10-9-84)

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC,

TO: LEGAT,

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<input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu	<input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk	<input type="checkbox"/> Quantico
<input type="checkbox"/> ASAC, Brooklyn-Queens (MRA)		

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<input type="checkbox"/> Tokyo

11/18/92
Date

RE: GAETON JOSEPH FONZI

(S)

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b3

Retention For appropriate
☒ For information ☐ optional ☐ action ☐ Surep, by _____
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☐ paraphrase contents.
☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____
dated _____

Remarks:

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~~"SECRET" IN ITS ENTIRETY.~~

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b1
b3

INFORMATION.

(S)

SEE ATTACHED.

DF DF

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Bufile
Urfile

C by 2582
Dcl on OADR

~~SECRET~~

ENCLOSURE

DATE: 01-16-2013
 FBI INFO.
 CLASSIFIED BY NSICG/SBS
 REASON: 1.4 (c)
 DECLASSIFY ON:
 01-16-2038

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/16/93

~~SECRET~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
 (ATTENTION: INTD; CI-2D)

FROM : SAC, MIAMI [REDACTED] (C)

SUBJECT : GAETON JOSEPH FONZI
 [REDACTED]

OO: MIAMI

This communication is classified "~~SECRET~~" in its
 entirety.

No investigation conducted after 11/5/92. Miami has
 delayed reporting on this matter due to case Agent's temporary
 assignment to a Gang Crimes Special.

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 CLASSIFIED BY: G-3
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GAETON JOSEPH FONZI
7532 West Treasure Drive
North Bay Village, Florida 33141
Fl. DL #: B520-290-35-370-0
Sex: Male; DOB: 10/10/35

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b7C

A review of the computerized records for the State of Florida's Driver's License Records of GAETON JOSEPH FONZI determined the same information as above with the following additions:

SSA #: 136-28-8924
Height: 6'1"
Class E Operator License - Restricts driving to daylight only.

A review of computerized records for DADE County Real Estate Properties determined the following for 7532 West Treasure Drive, North Bay Village, Florida 33141:

Registered Owner: GAETON J. FONZI &

b6
b7C

Southern Bell Telephone, Company Information Operator (411) did not locate a telephone number for GAETON JOSEPH FONZI.

A review of the Bresser's Criss/Cross Directory

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Ex-Dade school czar Fernandez

to promo book here

Former Dade school superintendent **Joe Fernandez**, now chancellor of New York City schools and author of a newly published and controversial autobiography, will be in Miami on Jan. 29 on a whirlwind book tour. He's planning to appear on at least one local TV program, *By Kids*, on WPLG-Channel 10, and WIOD-AM 610's *Weekend Magazine Sunday Edition*, hosted by Tom Hopkins.



JOAN FLEISCHMAN

TALK OF OUR TOWN
zine Sunday Edition, hosted by Tom Hopkins.

He'll also sign books from 7 to 9 p.m. at Books & Books in Coral Gables. But his New York publicist, Rachel Rader, says he's having trouble getting on the Dade school board's TV station, WLRN-Ch. 17. Could it be because Fernandez trashed several former colleagues in *Tales Out of School*? Fernandez was less than kind to former superintendents **Leonard Britton** and the late **Paul Bell**, as well as Superintendent **Octavio Visiedo**. Mer-

edith Porle, producer of Channel 17's public affairs show *Speak Out*, insists it's nothing personal. "I tape on Tuesday and he's here on a Friday."

Wedding bell news

WSVN-Ch. 7 anchor **Sally Fitz** is getting married Saturday. Her husband-to-be: **Michael P. Morrison**, a real estate lawyer with the Chicago-based firm Hopkins & Sutter, who also owns a home in Miami.

Fitz, 40, and Morrison, 48, were introduced last summer by a mutual friend. The wedding will be at the Farmington, Mo., home of Fitz's parents, and the couple will honeymoon later.

Fitz, who has a house in Miami Beach and had an on-again, off-again romance with Channel 7 owner **Ed Ansin**, says she's staying in South Florida. Says Fitz: "It's really pretty easy. He spends quite a bit of time down here. I'm real excited. He's a neat guy."

Like father, like son

It was 58 years ago that Miami attorney **Preston G. Prevatt** first volunteered his services as legal counsel for Miami Lighthouse for the Blind. A pal of Dr. **Bascom Palmer**, Prevatt



Fernandez



Fitz

helped write the organization's charter in 1936 and continued to do *pro bono* work until retiring from the prestigious firm Shotts & Bowen in the early 1960s.

Who took over? None other than his son, **Preston L. Prevatt**, a Shotts lawyer. The senior Prevatt died in 1968, but young Preston carried on for more than 30 years, advising the board of directors and reviewing contracts. But the time has come: The semi-retired Prevatt, 66, is stepping down. He'll be guest of honor at the Lighthouse's annual fund-raising dinner Tuesday at Yuca Restaurant, which is donating the food.

A special treat: Miami musician **Hazel Trujillo**, 29, who lost her sight at age 20 from juvenile diabetes, will play classical guitar. Trujillo, who

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also sings and plays the trombone and sax — works at the Lighthouse, teaching braille and computers to the blind.

Stay tuned

What will it be? Stone crabs and Florida oranges for San Diego, or California citrus for Miami? Depends who wins this friendly wager.

Susan Golding, newly elected mayor of San Diego, is betting Metro-Dade Mayor **Steve Clark** and Miami Mayor **Xavier Suarez** that the Chargers will beat the Dolphins in Sunday's playoffs. (Miami is the 2 1/2-point favorite by Las Vegas bookmakers.) If the Dolphins win, Golding promises to send Clark and Suarez a case of citrus, avocados and double-yolk eggs. If the Chargers win, Clark must send Florida oranges and Suarez says he'll ship stone crabs (from Monty's, since it's in Suarez's city.)

Mas on Mas Canosa

This month's issue of *Esquire* features a seven-page profile of influential Miami businessman **Jorge Mas Canosa**. The article, by **Gaeton Fonzi**, talks of Mas' distrust of reporters

("You will get all the *misinformation* that has been printed about me in the past. Then you will go talk with some of my enemies."). It talks of his role as chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation, his "clout in Washington." It quotes former State Department diplomat **Wayne Smith**: "This guy has assimilated the American political system better than anyone else . . . He knows whom to intimidate, whom to buy, and how to make it work . . ." And it delves into Mas' bitter feud with *The Miami Herald*, which he considers biased against Cuban exiles. At an Easter Seal Society fund-raiser, where Mas and *Herald* Publisher **David Lawrence Jr.** agreed to disagree, Mas poked fun at Lawrence's efforts to speak Spanish on television, saying he looked like "a scared deer in the headlights of a truck" who might as well have used sign language. Says Lawrence, in Uruguay for a 10-day Spanish immersion course: "I'm not claiming to be an expert. I am . . . using the language as my own sign of respect to other people in my community."

If you have a tip for the column, call Joan at 376-3440.

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Cherry Hill Fats Rides Again

BY GAETON FONZI

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, there began appearing in newspapers up and down the East Coast and as far west as Ohio this advertisement, or something similar to it:

PARTNER WANTED—Advertising, promotion, D & B rated firm with proven track record. Business too large to handle alone. Small cash investment required. Male or female but must be sales oriented. Call collect, (609) 667-5200, ask for Mr. Kaye.

In its very implication, the ad was deceptive. It was not placed by an individual looking for a partner to help run a booming business "with a proven track record." Rather, it was placed by a corporation called Golden Book Inc., the headquarters of which was ostensibly in a large office building at 1060 Kings Highway in Cherry Hill. Mr. Kaye was a phony named used by one of its front men.

Those who answered the ad would discover that their "cash investment" was really, in effect, the price to publish something called a "Golden Book of Value" in their particular area. The Golden Book of Value consisted entirely of advertisements from local retail merchants, each offering a special discount on goods or services. The investor—or "publishee," as he would be called—was required, of course, to sell the local merchants into advertising in the book and, for that, would receive a kick-back of 50% of the ad revenue. Once all the ads were sold, the publishee would receive 20,000 copies of the book, which he would then sell to the public for \$10, only \$4 of which he would have to kick-back to the corporation. (The buyer of each book would receive a plastic card which he would present to each merchant who advertised in the book. For his \$10, he could receive "up to \$1500" worth of discounts.)

The figures alone are impressive. On an investment of \$7500, a publishee could, if he sold all 107 pages of ads in the book and all





20,000 books, gross himself more than \$190,000. (The Golden Book corporation itself, with less of a return on the \$10 selling price of the book, could only gross about \$150,000 maximum.)

The sales pitch used on prospective publishers was not based on capital return alone. They were told that the Golden Book corporation would provide not only complete technical and mechanical services in setting up ads, providing proofs and printing the completed book, it would also give each publisher "complete training in all aspects of Golden Book sales and promotion"; it would send experts in to help sell the ads, if necessary; it would provide advertising and promotional material, billboards, displays and radio and television commercials and, in sum, provide the kind of total support that would guarantee the success of the venture.

Of course, prospective publishers were told, Golden Book was already a very successful operation "with a proven track record." As its ad said, it was "a D & B rated firm" and anyone with any doubt could check the actual Dun & Bradstreet report. There it was in black and white: "Sales July 1970 to Nov. 1970, \$411,250. . . . Annual sales are estimated at about \$1,000,000.00." Now that's a proven track record, isn't it? **APPROX.**

According to Dun & Bradstreet, the chairman of the board of Golden Book Inc. was a 30-year-old "sales motivation" expert named Ron Kimball. No previous corporate affiliations are mentioned but, the D & B report notes, "Mr. Kimball has been in the field of sales and sales training for the last ten years . . . and . . . in the last 12 months, Mr. Kimball has devoted his full time and efforts in developing the concept of Golden Book."

Kimball, a dark-haired, fast-talking Greek sharpie with a hint of a New England accent, would often take part in selling prospective publishers. Sometimes he would use an associate named James Sanford, a shifty-looking little guy with a bad complexion, to help him. Although it is not mentioned in the D & B report, both Kimball and Sanford were formerly associated with Koscot Interplanetary Inc., a Florida-based outfit that sold cosmetic franchises. (Koscot, accused of high-pressure and fraudu-

lent sales techniques, was recently barred from doing business in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania.)

If Kimball and Sanford came across a particularly hot prospect for Golden Book, someone perhaps who could afford to buy more than one marketing area, they would fly him into Philadelphia, show him their headquarters, wine and dine him and put the pressure on. Then, if the prospect were still recalcitrant, they would take him to a large, sprawling ranch home at 306 Monmouth Drive in Cherry Hill and introduce him to a guy who was an expert at closing deals. Invariably, the prospect would be impressed, if only by the unbelievable size of the guy. This big man was introduced to some prospects as Sylvan Harry; others, who came from out of the area and were unlikely to be familiar with his background, were told his real name: Sylvan Scolnick.

There may be a question as to the element of fraud involved in the newspaper ads which Golden Book used to attract publishers. There is no question that the Dun & Bradstreet report referred to in the ads contained much that was misleading and derived from concocted information. Its total sales figures, its accounts receivable, its reported gross profits were, in effect, nothing but optimistic speculations with no indication that they came from uncensored statements.

However, the most misleading element in the report was the implication that those listed as the officers and directors of the corporation were responsible for its operation and direction. Although some publishers would later discover it themselves, a prospect investigating the potential of investing in Golden Book would never learn from its Dun & Bradstreet report that the man calling all the shots was none other than Sylvan Scolnick, Cherry Hill Fats himself.

IN ALMOST EVERY WAY, Sylvan Scolnick is the epitome of the superlative. He is the most. He is undoubtedly the fattest, probably the shrewdest, unquestionably the most deceptive, perhaps the evildest and likely the most driven criminal conspirator in modern history. Ahhh, how that would hurt him. He is also one of the most sensitive of men. He is frequently given to philosophizing on life and morality and often expresses a reverence for the verities of religious ideals. When he wants to, he can have you believe that he is the gentlest and most considerate of men, an extremely likable fellow. He is a master at selling himself.

Or anything else, as a matter of fact.

"Sylvan Scolnick of Cherry Hill is a salesman who could sell Mayor Lindsay the Brooklyn Bridge," once rhapsodized a newspaper phraseologist. Scolnick is such a good salesman because he is such a good liar. He is an inveterate and perhaps psychopathic liar. He has the rare capability of believing his own lies. "I remember once," says a former close associate, "Sylvan telling me he had been out testing a tractor-trailer truck that morning, describing how he maneuvered it, backed it up, rode it up and down over the hills. I could just see him picturing himself driving the thing and I was sitting there listening to him and believing him until all of a sudden I realized he couldn't even lift himself up to the first step of a truck. In fact, he couldn't even fit into the goddam cab!"

It is not known whether Sylvan Scolnick was born big. It is known that by the time he was 18, when he was arrested for the first time for selling baseball pool cards, he was a pimply-faced behemoth tipping the scales, as they say, at close to 300 pounds. He claims, for what it's worth, that he made up his mind to go into a life of crime when he was 29 after a doctor told him that he



Golden Book chairman Ron Kimball poses for publicity picture in front of Sylvan Scolnick's bedroom door

would probably soon die from a heart condition. The expense of just being fat was also a factor, he has said. "Anything I buy costs me five times as much as it costs anybody else. A \$15 pair of pants costs me \$75."

Like he did everything else, Sylvan Scolnick went into crime in a big way. It was not known how big until he himself became the most talkative stool pigeon Philadelphia law enforcers had ever grabbed. Yet what he revealed only hinted at the true scope of his criminal activity.

In his first venture into the big time, he set up his own father-in-law for a fraudulent bankruptcy. Morris Stein was a mild-mannered former upholsterer incapable of grasping the ramifications of his son-in-law's manipulations. Scolnick acquired a small general appliance store in the old man's name and began ordering truckloads of merchandise on credit. The stuff came in one door and went out the other as fast as Scolnick could peddle it to various hot-goods contacts around the country. He pocketed the cash and let M. Stein & Company's bills pile up. Within months after Morris Stein opened his store, he declared bankruptcy. Close to \$700,000 in debt, he claimed he lost the money in gambling and to loan sharks. (A former associate of Scolnick's who was involved in the fraud says that at one point Scolnick, when he was afraid the old man wouldn't hold up under cross examination by federal investigators, was considering having his father-in-law bumped off. The old man did hold up and eventually wound up going to jail with Scolnick.)

However, the M. Stein & Company bankruptcy set the pattern for dozens of fraudulent bankruptcies over the next five years. With an expanding crew of front men, Scolnick made a business of buying small respectable retail outlets with good credit ratings, quickly ordering huge quantities of merchandise, getting rid of it through shady dealers, pocketing the cash and then sinking the business, usually all in the matter of months. Each bankruptcy was worth a few hundred thousand dollars. With his extremely facile mind, Scolnick was able to oversee the details of four or five operations at one time, although he never appeared as a principal in any one of them. Before the bubble burst, Scolnick had taken a multitude of creditors for at least a few million bucks.

Even the fantastic complexity of running a fraudulent bankruptcy ring wasn't enough to keep Scolnick's whirling dervish of a brain fully occupied. One of his fronts, a Camden firm wryly called Smith, Kline & Fender, became one of the largest conduits of second mortgage paper (installment notes generated by schlocky home repair, roofing and aluminum siding firms) to major local banks and finance companies. When former *Inquirer* reporter Harry Karafin discovered the bankruptcy fraud ring and tried to blackmail Scolnick, the fat man turned Karafin around and became an associate in the reporter's expanding shakedown racket. When arsonist Sid Brooks was arrested and \$100,000 of his loot impounded by the federal government, it was Scolnick who masterminded the plan of stealing the money out of a bank's safe deposit box and then having Brooks sue the government for negligence in permitting the money to be stolen. It was Scolnick himself who engraved the plates for more than \$2 million worth of phony American Express checks. It was Scolnick who defrauded millions out of insurance companies, banks and brokerage firms through various complex schemes involving arson, fraudulent loans and stock manipulation. There were few illegal activities that Sylvan Scolnick did not dip his chubby fingers into.

In 1966, Scolnick was convicted in federal court of bankruptcy fraud and sentenced to five years in the Lewisburg prison. He had done everything possible to avoid

conviction. He had feigned heart attacks and strokes and even put himself in a hospital for a few weeks (where he had associates smuggle in huge steaks and dozens of milk shakes). At one point, after he claimed he was too ill to walk, he was lifted onto a hand truck and rolled into court.

Despite his conviction and sentence, Sylvan Scolnick spent very little time in a jail cell. Of course, jail is a special hell for a man as fat as Scolnick, a man who can't fit into a shower stall or wipe his own backside or rise from a chair without help or sleep on anything but a specially built bed or mattresses thrown on the floor. That's one of the reasons Scolnick became one of the gabbiest stool pigeons this town has ever heard. In addition, the Philadelphia district attorney's office uncovered his involvement in a number of arson and burglary jobs and was threatening to hit him with even longer prison sentences.

So Sylvan Scolnick spent a good deal of his prison time in the local offices of the FBI (he is still one of the Bureau's key informers and reportedly receives a regular government check) and in the City Hall offices of the district attorney sipping on a bevy of underworld characters who once considered him a trusted cohort. He was the star witness in a few major cases, including the Harry Karafin trial.

It was during this time that insiders remember him holding royal court, as it were, in the unmarked backrooms of the district attorney's offices. Nurtured and fed by DA detectives (who would drive him to the comfort of his own home on weekends and even cut his grass), Scolnick regaled anyone who would listen with exciting tales of his criminal exploits. "Millions passed through my hands," he once said, "and that's the way I lived. The broads, the booze, the big cars, the parties down in Atlantic City, the trips to Vegas all went flying by. Money didn't mean anything to me, it was just something to get when you needed it. Life was like a fast train."

Through those days of testimony and trials, a new Sylvan Scolnick was supposed to be emerging. Chastened by his experience, the once-cocky criminal mastermind now became the reformed crook. "When I heard that clang of the door behind me at Lewisburg," he said, "it was the most depressing moment of my life. Prison degrades you. 'Oh my God Almighty, what have I done?' I asked myself."

As if to show his sincerity, Scolnick even went on a diet. Where he once gulped down nine meals a day (a friend once saw him down 48 hamburgers in a sitting), he now called for an occasional salad and tea. By the time he was paroled in May of 1970, he was down to close to 500 pounds. A mere shell of his former self, he now blamed his criminal career on his obesity. "Being overweight made me try harder," he said. "I always had to do better. I tried to do better in crime. I think I succeeded, much to my dismay."

'CHERRY HILL FATS' HOME, ANXIOUS FOR NEW CAREER, headlined the *Bulletin* on his release. Ensnored on his rear patio, Scolnick said: "I tell you it's nice just sitting out here and smelling the grass and feeling the breeze. Do you know what it's like to go to the refrigerator and get a glass of juice?" He was a new man, he told reporters. He had learned his lesson. "The best thing that ever happened to me was going to prison," he chimed. "I feel mentally clean. I feel so clean—like a newborn baby!"

Sylvan Scolnick became one of the area's most sought-after public speakers. He had more requests than he could accept. He told his audiences that crime doesn't pay and

that no amount of money is worth one day in jail. He lectured on "How I Got Loused Up" and charged a fee of \$50 a half-hour, which he donated to the Prison Chaplaincy Fund. Last November, when asked by a reporter how he was making a living, he said he was "putting it all together" in the advertising business. He traded under an agency name he declined to reveal. "Some people back away at the name of Sylvan Scolnick," he said. "I can understand that." But, he claimed, there were three reasons why he was a "better risk" than anyone else. "First," he said, "I can't afford any slips. Second, anything questionable I walk away from. Anyhow, number three, I try harder because I have more at stake."

The old Sylvan Scolnick was dead. Now there was a new Sylvan Scolnick, fresh, honest, wholesome and, well, "clean—like a newborn baby!"

ABOUT THE MIDDLE of last August, Sylvan Scolnick received a telephone call at his house in Cherry Hill from a man named Joe Spinelli. Here is part of the conversation:

"Hello, Syl?"

"Yeah."

"Guess who?"

"Joseph Spinelli?"

"Yeah!"

"How you doin', Joe?"

"I feel terrific. How do you feel?"

"Well, a little upset."

"I heard you had a fall over in front of Sam Rappaport's."

"Bad fall."

"How'd ya fall?"

"Well, you know, how do I fall? I'm not feeling well, my leg is bad, and it's pretty tough, me carrying my body around, you know. So I tripped and banged up the hip and I bruised up an arm and I almost broke it, and almost broke my right leg."

"When you go down, you must go down like a ton."

"Yeah. It's difficult for me to sit up and it's difficult for me to lay down and just problems with the weight and all. And I'm just not feeling well, in general. So what's with you, Joe?"

"Oh, I've been busy. I started a book to go into competition because I got pissed about the way things happened, not gettin' any money and all that. I was supposed to call Jimmy Sanford to meet with him and Ron Kimball and there was no answer. I get the answering service."

"Maybe they're out eating."

"They said they'd be there. I got back from New York about 3:30 and before I called I found out something. How come you had Marvin pick up Phil Tannenbaum and book him?"

"I had Marvin do what? First of all, let me straighten something out so you understand. I had nobody do anything. I had nothing to do with anything. So anything you ask me about anything with them or with Ron or Jim, I don't know."

"Well, you paid for the furniture."

"Paid for what furniture?"

"Marvin's furniture."

"I paid for Marvin's . . . ?"

"When Marvin moved out . . ."

"Marvin told you that you could use the apartment. I understood, just until his lease. That was all he done."

"No, you said to me, even when I was in Florida, that you took care of the furniture, and you . . ."

"I said that to you? That's a lie, that's a lie, Joe . . ."

"Yeah, you said you paid him like \$400 or \$500 for the furniture. In fact, I even told . . ."

"That's a lie, Joe. That's a lie, Joe. Joe. I never said any such thing to you, Joe. Now that's a lie. That's not true, Joe. You only had a place and, in fact, he even told you and I told you that his lease is only 'til August and he's getting married, 'cause then he's gonna use the stuff. That was it, you had a place 'til then. And then, if you wanted to, you could rent an apartment yourself."

"That's not what I was told, but that's beside the point. Anyway, what's with the corporation?"

"With regard to what?"

"Who has the stock? Jimmy?"

"Kimball, Jimmy. Anything with the company, Joe, listen, I been away from the company for some months now. I don't have anything to do with it. Listen, I'm not feeling well, it was too much running and this and that, just too much for me. I just couldn't handle it and you know, I just couldn't take it, Joe, and that was all. So, if you want them, call the office or leave a number with the answering service or something."

"Wait, since you had all the books and everything . . ."

"Who had all the books?"

"Syl, you *did* have them, Syl."

"Joe, I didn't have no books! I don't have no books, and I'm telling you I'm *not* affiliated. . . ."

"Syl, but all I want to know is . . ."

"Joe, Joe, listen to me, Joe. . . ."

"What?"

"Let me tell you again. . . ."

"You're acting very cool. . . ."

"Well, Joe, I'm acting cool because I don't feel that you're my friend, Joe. You understand? Now all I can do is just tell you what I know, and what I don't know. I have nothing to deny, Joe, one thing I'll say: I have nothing to deny, because my life is an open book at this point, my whole life. I have nothing to deny, nothing to hide, and I feel great about it."

"Then make me feel great and tell me what happened to the stock of the corporation."

"Joe, I don't have any stock in no corporation."

"You're denying that?"

"I'm not denying anything, Joe. I'm telling you something. I'm not on no defensive. I'm making a statement of fact."

"I'm not trying to put you on any defensive. I'd just like to know what happened to 100% of the stock of the corporation that I incorporated."

"That's none of your business, Joe."

"None of *my* business?"

"No, how is it your business, Joe?"

"Oh, you didn't offer \$50,000 for 50% of that stock?"

"No, Joe, Joe, I never offered you anything."

"Are you trying to tell me you had nothing to do with this at all?"

"No, I'm not trying to tell you anything. I know exactly what transpired, and if you ever want to come over and sit down and talk. . . ."

"You had nothing to do with Golden Book, you're telling me now?"

"Joe, do you want me to hang up, or do you want me to talk?"

"No, I want to talk. Don't hang up."

"Well, now, if you want me to talk to you, Joe, don't raise your voice. . . ."

"O.K., but . . ."

"You're being very argumentative with me. I thought you just called me to find out how I feel. . . ."

"Yeah, I called up to find out how you feel, also, but I'd like to know what happened to the stock, because I think I'm due some kind of stock." (continued on page 136)



MAN'S LIB

We're out to set men free from the familiar scents: the flood of florals, the spate of spices, the ceaseless stream of citruses, the proliferation of patchoulis.

We've tapped a new source for our spirited new cologne, the tangle of wild, aromatic thickets rooted in the rock of every mountainous cliff on the savagely beautiful Mediterranean island of Corsica, sending their scent seaward on the wind. Green, leafy, intriguingly unfamiliar. The wild Maquis. So vigorous in spirit, the French named a liberation movement after it.

maquis®

4 oz. Cologne 6.50, including spray cap

Only at John Wanamaker

LYNCHBURG
HARDWARE & GENERAL STORE
EST. 1871

Box 239-VV, Lynchburg, Tenn. 37352

Jack Daniel's Sippin' Lamp

I have some of these solid brass lamps that look just like the one Mr. Jack used on his old roll-top desk. It'll look real good in the kitchen or on the back porch. The globe keeps the wick lit even in a hard wind. And the reflector in back helps you see better. These fine lamps with Jack Daniel's in black and gold sell for \$12. Please add \$1.00 for postage and handling.



Raggedy Ann and Andy Dolls

It'll tell you, kids really get attached to these dolls. So they need to be well made. That's why nobody else but the Lynchburg ladies make them around here. Each doll is dressed in a pretty costume and they're real cute and lovable. Our ladies would be happy to hand-make a Raggedy Ann or Andy to fill your order. They're \$7 each. Please add 50¢ for postage and handling.

John F. ...

Send check, money order,
Bank Americard or Master Charge,
including all numbers and signature.
(Tennessee residents add 3% sales tax).
For a catalog full of old Tennessee items,
send 25¢ to above address.

SCOLNICK continued from page 76

"Joe, listen. I haven't had anything to do over there, or with them, or anything, for some maybe three months. Joe, I'm not involved with it anymore."

"In other words you washed your hands completely of . . ."

"That's right, Joe. You're a pretty hip guy. You're nobody's fool, and what else can I tell you?"

"Syl, all I keep asking for is my stock in the corporation that I founded, that's all. And I keep getting the runaround. It's almost a year, Sylvan, it is a year, since it was incorporated."

"Joe, I never had any stock, in my name or out of my name."

"O.K., you're playing it very cool. I don't blame you for the position you're in."

"Look, Joe, do what you want. Tell me what, Joe."

"O.K. All I want is my stock or some kind of money, that's all."

"What stock, Joe?"

"Well, I had 100%, then it went to 50% . . ."

"Joe, you had 100%, Joe, and you signed. Aw, c'mon. Joe, how much money do you want, and let me tell them, and when they call me or if I hear from them. . ."

"Wait, wait. I'll tell you what. We'll say make it \$50,000 and that is for 100% of the stock, because originally . . ."

"Phew! You want \$50,000 in cash? And you'll leave them alone?"

"I'll leave them alone."

"Awright, because I got nothing to do with them or Golden Book. I'm telling you now."

"Well, I'll believe you when you really step back."

"You think I'm kidding? I'm telling you I got nothing to do with it and have had nothing to do with it for some three months now. I'm not kidding. Look, let me tell them what you said, you want \$50,000 and you'll leave them alone."

"In the meantime, I'll try and call them."

"All right, I'm gonna tell them you want 50 grand and you'll leave them alone. You'll stop bothering them, O.K.?"

"The only person that I can turn to would be you, who I originally dealt with."

"Joe, I'll tell you this, Joe. You've been a friend of mine, you've always been a friend of mine. I always counseled you as my friend. And I've always thought that you were close to me. I always thought, above anything else, I could trust you. You hear?"

"Yeah."

"But I'll tell you something, Joe."

As far as I'm concerned, if they owe you anything, or there's something that's supposed to be, you can rest assured that I'll be on your side, Joe. Now I've told you that always before. I told you that before when Jimmy told me that you called him up and you quit, I couldn't believe it. And do you remember you called me on the phone and you said to me, 'Are you ready to talk to me now?' You know, with regard to money and stock for the company? And I said, 'Joe, come over and see me. Joe, and I'll make some kind of arrangements for you.' But you didn't want to listen and you hung up on me. Now you're coming up with a figure—you want \$50,000? Let me tell him. Meanwhile, call him at the office. I'm positive they'll be back."

"All right."

"All right, Joe, take care, babe, and listen, Joe, Joe, do what's right, Joe. I'm telling you, Joe."

"Sylvan, I'm not out to hurt anybody."

"Joe, do what's right. . ."

"I will. . ."

"Don't do nothing you ain't supposed to, Joe. And, Joe, please, do me a favor, and don't break the law, Joe."

RIGHT NOW, SYLVAN SCOLNICK is running—figuratively, of course—like hell. He is running scared. He is running to get away from any involvement with an unusual company that happens to be located in his hometown of Cherry Hill.

Sylvan Scolnick knows that if the extent of his association with that company were ever revealed, there is a damn good possibility that he will go back to jail. Above all else, Sylvan Scolnick does not want to go back to jail.

That's why Sylvan Scolnick now says he has nothing to do with the company. He was merely its "advertising consultant." He was never the one who had control, never the one who charted its financial manipulations, never the one who directed its convoluted operations, never the one who called the shots. Not Sylvan Scolnick. It is irrelevant, according to Scolnick, that all the complex wheeling and dealing that has so far characterized the direction of the company bears the hallmark of one of the shrewdest con men of our time.

He is absolutely amazing, Sylvan Scolnick is. Closely watched by a federal parole agent, constantly in touch with both local and national

law enforcers, cooperating on a regular basis with the FBI, and all the while proclaiming the absolute necessity of conducting himself beyond a shadow of suspicion, Sylvan Scolnick was nevertheless the engineer of a corporate vehicle that might have taken him right back into the big time. Life once again might have been as he put it, "like a fast train." It might have been.

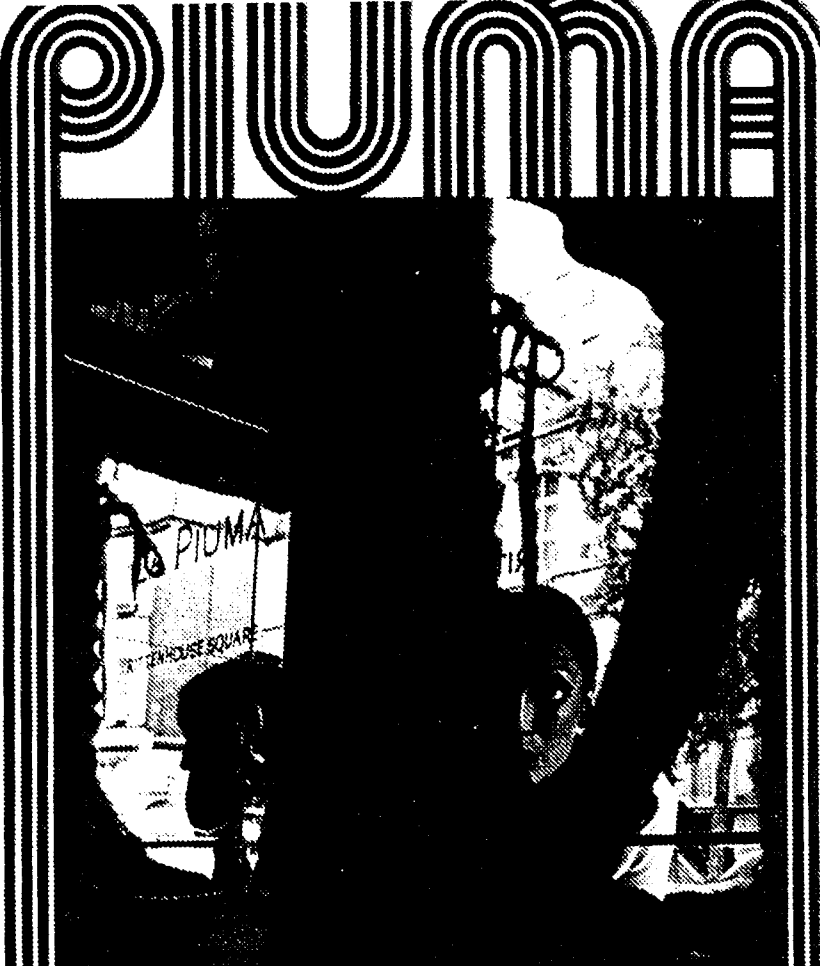
Strangely enough, Sylvan Scolnick once said that his favorite quotation was from John Greenleaf Whittier: *"For all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: 'it might have been.'"*

EARLY IN 1969, when Sylvan Scolnick was still in jail, Joe Spinelli had an idea. Spinelli was 38 then, a frizzily-haired personable little guy who had been in advertising sales all his life. Originally from Philadelphia, he had been living along the North Jersey shore, in Ocean County, for a number of years. It was there that he decided to first put his idea to work.

Spinelli knew that retail merchants have a problem judging the effectiveness of any particular advertising medium, whether it may be newspapers, magazines, radio or television. Just how many customers does each ad attract? If he could devise an effective, inexpensive form of advertising that would provide merchants with proof of each sale's source, Spinelli felt he would have a winner. Thus evolved the concept of Golden Book. According to official records in the Ocean County Clerk's Office, Spinelli, with his wife and brother-in-law, formed a limited partnership known as Golden Book, Golden Book of Values, Ltd., in April of 1969.

Spinelli figured that each marketing area of 200,000 people could support a Golden Book published once a year. He deliberately kept the cost of each full-page ad—\$82.50—to a minimum so that the company had to make almost all its profit on circulation, thus assuring merchants of adequate distribution and giving validity to the book as an effective advertising concept.

Spinelli published his first Golden Book—actually, a chunky three-by-five-inch booklet—late in 1969. By a number of measures, it was a success. He had sold 107 pages of advertising and the sale of the book itself to consumers was going well. Yet within a matter of months Spinelli found himself in a financial jam. He had been undercapitalized from the beginning and his accounts receivable weren't coming in fast enough. In addition, he



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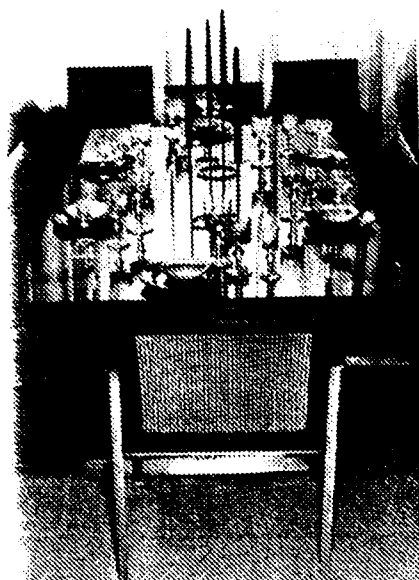
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SCOLNICK

was pouring money into trying to get another book off the ground in Monmouth County. And, on top of it all, he was having domestic problems that eventually ended in a divorce. He soon hit a low point in his life. His car was repossessed and a couple checks bounced.

But he still had faith in the concept of Golden Book and, in the back of his head, plans for its expansion. He figured the country could be divided into more than 900 marketing areas capable of supporting a Golden Book and, given enough money and time, he could establish them one at a time.

Time is what Spinelli had; money is what he went looking for. Through a series of contacts and referrals, Spinelli eventually was told to get in touch with a deal-maker in Philadelphia by the name of Jack Shapiro. In and out of a variety of fast-buck operations over the years, Shapiro was making a living putting people with money together with people looking for money and collecting a "finder's fee" for his services.

Shapiro, a bandy-legged little guy with a rubbery smile, was once in business with a man named Joe Py. They dealt in second-mortgage paper, much of it of questionable legitimacy generated by suede-shoe home repair salesmen and loan consolidators. That's what brought them a visit from former *Inquirer* reporter Harry Karafin, who shook them down for \$5000. At the time, however, they didn't know of the connection between Karafin and Scolnick, whom they knew only as a fellow dealer in second-mortgage paper. Later, Shapiro was, with Scolnick, one of the key witnesses against Karafin.

Just before Joe Spinelli contacted him in July of last year, Shapiro had gotten a call from Sylvan Scolnick. Scolnick told him that he had met a guy with just enough brains, a plumber named Marvin Abrams, whom he was thinking of using as a front for an operation called Mr. Tuffy. This was a gimmick-based home-repair company which, for a "membership" charge of \$10 a year, would guarantee 24-hour service on emergency repairs. Scolnick told Shapiro that he eventually wanted to get into franchising, where the money is, and that Mr. Tuffy might be a legitimate vehicle.

When Joe Spinelli came to Shapiro looking for capital to expand his Golden Book operation, Shapiro remembered Scolnick's call and thought the fat man might see the same fran-

chising potential in Golden Book. He decided to take Spinelli to 306 Monmouth Drive in Cherry Hill.

"When I first saw him, my God!" says Spinelli. "I remember the circus when I was a kid, but I never saw anyone *that* big!" Scolnick had just gotten out of his pool and was standing there in a tent-sized white robe. Spinelli, having been out of the Philadelphia area for years, didn't know that Scolnick was a very unusual man in more ways than one. "We sat down and I told him all about Golden Book," recalls Spinelli. "He took shorthand notes of everything I said. He asked me how much money would be needed and I said I figured about \$50,000. He asked how much of the company I would be willing to give up for that and I said half. He said, 'O.K., it's a deal.' We also agreed that Shapiro would get 10% as his finder's fee. But, he said, we couldn't go anywhere until I got the company structure changed from a limited partnership to a corporation. I said I would do that."

Records in the office of the secretary of state of New Jersey show that Golden Book Inc. was incorporated by Joseph M. Spinelli on August 17, 1970.

A few weeks later, Spinelli had his second meeting with Scolnick. This time, however, it was not at Scolnick's Cherry Hill home but in the nearby offices of a firm called Intercontinental Sales Corporation. That, it has since been discovered, was an aborted operation set up by Kosco to push its "Supercharge" credit card. The president of Intercontinental was James B. Sanford. According to an old news release from Intercontinental, Sanford formerly served as president of Tri-State Lending and Financing (the corporate front that Scolnick used as his central command post while running his bankruptcy fraud ring was called Twin-State).

Sanford was present at this second meeting of Spinelli and Scolnick, as was the man who would later become "house counsel" for Golden Book, a Camden attorney named Everett L. Jones. (Scolnick had previously used Jones while running his Smith, Kline & Fender operation.) It was at this meeting that Spinelli first got an indication that Scolnick was planning to bring other people into the Golden Book deal. "He and Sanford began using code names for guys they knew, guys they said we 'absolutely' needed in the operation. Later Scolnick told me that we couldn't make the deal unless we brought them in. I found out later they were friends of San-

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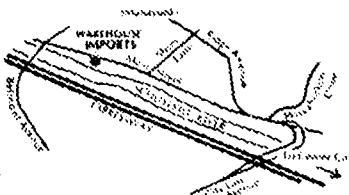
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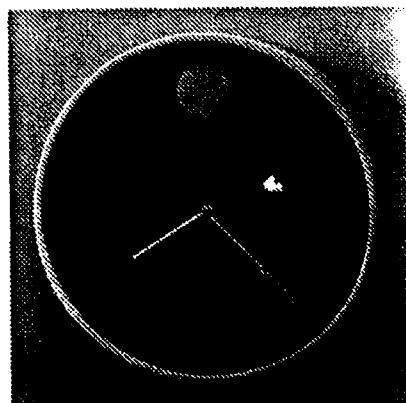
ford's from Koscot. One was Ron Kimball and the other Fred Maroon. So now Scolnick said that instead of a 50-50 split between me and him, we would divide the company five ways, each of us with 20% of the stock. But I told him I didn't want to lose control. He said, 'Don't worry, we'll have a letter written between us so that only you and I will have the voting power.'

The deal was scheduled to be consummated one night late in August of 1970 in Sylvan Scolnick's home. "It was hectic," Spinelli recalls. "More people were going in and out of that place than I could count. It was just so hectic, all of these wheelers and dealers coming and going and talking about dozens of different things. I had the feeling I was in the office of some big corporate business executive, with all the traffic he had. It was about 2 o'clock in the morning before we got around to our deal and then he started me signing all these papers and corporate transfers. Meanwhile it kept getting later and later and the stock certificates were supposed to be made out and the letter about control written and signed, but we kept getting interruptions and people kept coming and going until finally Sylvan says, 'It's getting late and I'm getting tired, so why don't we finish it up tomorrow.' Tomorrow never did come."

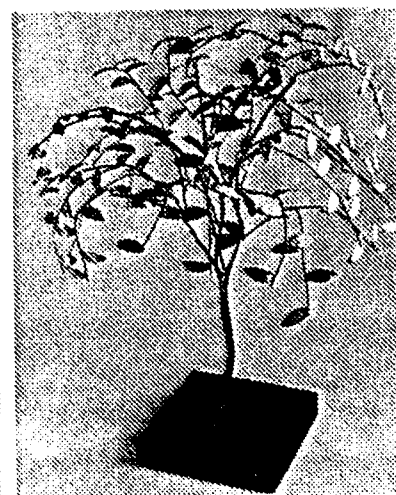
At the time, Spinelli had no reason to be suspicious of Scolnick. Weeks later, when he did find out about his background—one night in passing conversation, Scolnick happened to mention something about life in prison—Scolnick told him what he told every other person he made deals with: that he was a better risk because he had more to lose, that he was watched too closely to do anything wrong, and that he had to do everything legitimately and completely above suspicion because he was not only on federal parole but also under a 30-year probationary sentence. Who would believe that Sylvan Scolnick could be anything but honest?

Spinelli wouldn't realize it until months later, but what Scolnick did that very busy night at his home was take the Golden Book corporation completely out of his hands. Because it wasn't long after that night that a Certificate of Change of Agent for Golden Book Inc. was filed in Trenton. The new agent was a Camden lawyer named Gene Haeberle, another attorney Scolnick had used in the past. Authorizing the change of agent was the apparently new president of

from William H. Frederick



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That's right, modest. The battery-operated, 12-inch wall clock, for example, is extremely simple in black on white or white on black. It's so modest that it's striking. And it's so striking that it's in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art. It's also very modestly priced at \$35.00. The sculptured tree is an original piece by Jerry Fox, issued in limited edition. Delicately worked bronze on a base of hand-rubbed walnut and a beautiful pale green patina. It's only \$42.00. William H. Frederick has hundreds of gift items ranging from the modest to the magnificent. Stop in and see them all first hand, or send for our new catalog.



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SCOLNICK

Golden Book: Mary Abrams, the plumber.

One of the hallmarks of any Sylvan Scolnick operation is the multiplicity of characters he uses in a variety of roles. He is a master tactician who makes maximum use of the people around him, pulling them in and out of operations, superimposing and duplicating their functions and positions to create as much confusion as possible. Mary Abrams, for instance, was made president of both Mr. Tuffy and Golden Book. A young secretary named Theresa Cipriano, the daughter of one of Scolnick's mother's friends, was made corporate secretary of the same two firms. Sylvan Scolnick, who has a tough time moving around himself, has made a schtick out of manipulating people.

To get GOLDEN BOOK's corporate ship steaming immediately ahead at full speed, Scolnick got Jim Sanford, Ron Kimball and Fred Maroon to contact all of the monied prospects they had known from their Kosco days and invite them to a two-day "seminar" at the Cherry Hill Lodge. There Joe Spinelli would offer them the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a fantastic new advertising concept that would make them all wealthy.

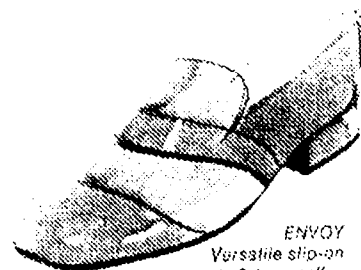
That two-day sales pitch was held over the Labor Day weekend in 1970. It did produce some results in that a few prospects did sign up as Golden Book publishers, but Spinelli remembers it mostly because a couple of things happened that gave him an indication there was more behind the scenes than Scolnick had told him. First, at one point during the seminar, all the prospects were loaded onto a bus and driven across the Delaware and up to Downingtown where they were given a demonstration of dune buggies. What Spinelli wanted to know, did dune buggies have to do with Golden Book? Nothing, he was told, it was just something that Sylvan was interested in.

The other strange occurrence that weekend involved Jim Sanford. He disappeared. Spinelli asked about him early on the first morning and was told by Ron Kimball that Sanford wasn't feeling well and had gone home. Sanford didn't show up that afternoon or the next day and Spinelli was told that he still wasn't feeling well. What Spinelli wasn't told until much later was that Sanford had gone to jail to begin a six-month sentence for a \$50,000 check kiting scheme. Despite Sanford's incapacity, Scolnick kept him on

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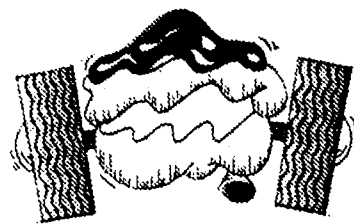
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Golden Book's payroll at \$1000 a month all the time he was in jail.

(The relationship between Scolnick and the boyish-looking Sanford is interesting. Sanford is something of a protégé of the fat man and Scolnick takes an almost paternal concern for Sanford's well-being. "Sylvan tried like hell to keep him out of jail," says a friend, "and even after he went in he pulled strings to get him transferred to a model federal prison in Florida. When Sanford called on the day he got out, Sylvan cried like a baby, he was so happy." Sanford, who now calls himself the president of Golden Book, had never been in jail before, although his arrest record includes convictions for robbery, forgery, fraud and passing worthless checks.)

That Labor Day weekend seminar marked the opening of the throttle of Golden Book's operations under Sylvan Scolnick's aegis. Although Scolnick today claims he was never instrumental in the direction or operation of the company—he was always just a "consultant"—there is more than sufficient evidence to prove differently. Until a few months ago, when it became apparent to Scolnick that he had gone a bit too far and the whole thing was about to blow up in his face, Golden Book's command post was not at its official offices in a building at 1060 Kings Highway, but at 306 Monmouth Drive—Sylvan Scolnick's home. (Even one of the telephones now located in Golden Book's offices was transferred from Scolnick's house.)

One of the first things that Scolnick did to facilitate his operational control of Golden Books was to get Spinelli out of the picture by sending him away to sell publishing areas and conduct sales seminars up and down the East Coast. Then he began to move. He had a huge addition built onto his already very large house, had it paneled and decorated and brought over furniture for it from the offices of the defunct firm that Sanford headed, Interecontinental Sales. Then, through Golden Book, he ordered hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of printing and duplicating equipment and had it all delivered to his house. (Included in the equipment, some of which is still not paid for, were IBM typewriters, an IBM Composer, a Verityper, Xerox copiers, an Addressograph-Multigraph Headliner, and a Roneo mimeograph.) He also ordered, through Executive Leasing, two new

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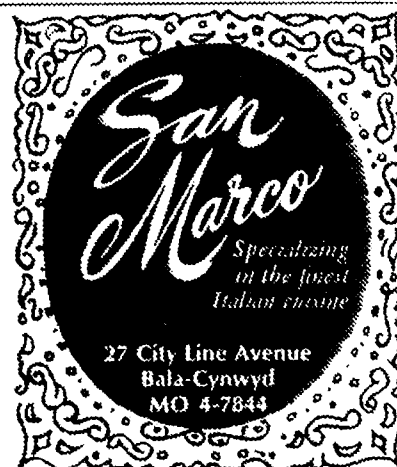
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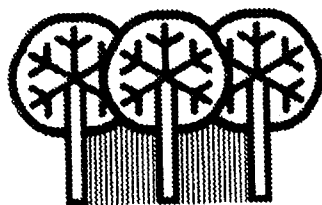
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SCOLNICK

Lincoln Continentals. (Later, when Sanford got out of jail, he would also get one.)

Then he began bringing in some of his old cronies, among them a very sharp bookkeeper who went by the name of Rose Jacoby. A big Oriental-looking woman, Rose Jacoby used to work for Scolnick during the heyday of his bankruptcy fraud ring and his Smith, Kline & Fender operation. Her real name is Pat Oxinia (alias "Filipino Pat"). Before she got into bookkeeping she was a prostitute.

Another crony regularly around Scolnick's house was a husky, dark-haired guy named Jack Secouler. One of the fat man's top sidekicks in his bankruptcy ring, Secouler was convicted with Scolnick and spent nine months in federal prison. The connection between Scolnick and Secouler (who sometimes calls himself Bruce Casino) is still very close. Once, when Scolnick sent a group of salesmen out to sell publishing areas for Golden Book in Ohio, he gave one of them a Humble Oil credit card on which to bill their expenses. They ran up close to \$500 in bills. Their tab, however, was never billed to Golden Book. It was billed to the 783 Liquor Store, a dive in the heart of Camden's ghetto. The 783 Liquor Store is run by Jack Secouler.

Such interlockings, although infrequently revealed, are like glimpses of the tip of Scolnick's operational iceberg. Although Secouler, for instance, was in no way connected with Golden Book—except for an association he had with an officer in the firm's bank, Fidelity Bank & Trust of Pennsauken—Scolnick appears to have used him as a conduit in one of the many circles of cash flows he was spinning. Thousands of dollars of Golden Book checks were for some mysterious reason endorsed to Secouler's liquor store. A former associate believes that Scolnick is behind that operation also.

Meanwhile, Sylvan Scolnick had convinced Joe Spinelli to go on the road selling publishing areas without a salary. That would be in the best interests of the corporation for now, said Scolnick, because every cent was needed to get the operation off the ground. In lieu of a salary, Scolnick told Spinelli that he would make sure the monthly payments on his new car were made and that regular support payments would be made to his former wife.

With slick salesmen following up the leads from inquiries to its "Part-

ner Wanted" ads, Golden Book's coffers soon began to fatten. And Sylvan Scolnick was the guy in charge of what went in and what went out. As corporate secretary, Terry Cipriano would sign at his behest pages of checks in advance. And if Mr. Tully-Golden Book president Mary Abrams wasn't around to sign the checks, Scolnick never hesitated to forge Abrams' signature. (Witnesses, in fact, say that Scolnick would even brag about his talent for forgery, although one official handwriting expert, after comparing one signed document against Abrams' signature on his recent marriage license, said the forgery was obvious.)

Despite the fact that his partner Spinelli was out pounding the hustings without a salary, Scolnick himself made ample use of Golden Book funds for both himself and his cronies. Not only were they driving around in expensive cars, they also drew out fat sums in salaries or expenses. (After Sanford got out of jail, he rented a home for his family close to Scolnick's. The owner of the house says he has received Golden Book checks from Sanford as rent payments.) An earnings statement for the first three months of operation listed payroll expenses at close to \$12,000, travel and entertainment at \$6,600 and "consultants" fees at \$20,145.

Although Scolnick frequently moaned to Spinelli about the financial strain of getting a new corporation off the ground, he didn't seem to find it necessary to tighten his own belt. He continued to wine and dine in the manner to which he was accustomed, oftentimes ordering lavishly from one of his favorite restaurants, a plush spot called Henry's, near the Garden State Race Track. (According to the bills at Henry's, Scolnick's favorite late-night snack was three dozen fried shrimp. All the bills are charged to Golden Book, most are marked "Hold for Sylvan." When *Philadelphia Magazine* began its investigation—after Scolnick claimed he was no longer associated with Golden Book—Henry's had more than \$600 worth of outstanding bills against Golden Book. When a representative of Henry's called Scolnick and told him of the magazine's inquiry, Scolnick immediately sent Jim Sanford over to pay off the debt—in cash.)

In addition, despite Scolnick's contention that Golden Book's working capital situation was very tight, he somehow was able to have Golden



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Book make very large loans to two other corporations: Alpha & Omega Inc. and Mr. Tuffy Inc. (Alpha & Omega appears to be Scolnick's first venture after he got out of jail. Principally, it was a mobile billboard business, although its only known clients are Golden Book and Mr. Tuffy.)

THROUGH IT ALL, Sylvan Scolnick's main concern was to keep himself as far in the background as possible. A corporation run by one of the biggest con men of all time might have difficulty attracting investors and even creditors. (When Marv Abrams once naively reported to the company insuring the Mr. Tuffy trucks that one of them was parked in front of 306 Monmouth Drive, the company immediately dropped the insurance, and Executive Leasing, which rented out both the trucks and Golden Book cars, cancelled all contracts until another insurance company was found.) Although a few potential investors from outside the Philadelphia area were introduced to Scolnick by his real name, most were never told that he was the key figure behind Golden Book operations. According to the Dun & Bradstreet report to which the company's salesman referred potential investors and which, in fact, they used as a very effective sales tool, Golden Book's chairman of the board was Ron Kimball; its president, Calvin Lamb; its vice president and treasurer, Herbert Pasker; and its directors Alan Shapiro and Herbert Pasker.

From men. As noted, no mention is made in the D & B report of Kimball's previous affiliation with Kosco, and without that reference Kimball makes a safe enough top man. Herb Pasker is a printer with a small operation in North Philadelphia whom Scolnick brought in to do the actual printing. Scolnick wanted someone close by who would be able to come to his house when called. Pasker had dealt with Scolnick previously and was owed money by him, but Scolnick told him he would make up the debt, and more, in the Golden Book deal. "When he asked me to become vice president I said O.K.," says Pasker, "because I figured as an officer of the company I was less likely to be shafted of any money due me."

The president of Golden Book according to Dun & Bradstreet was not Marv Abrams but Calvin Lamb, a young black man whose pliability Scolnick seems to have immediately

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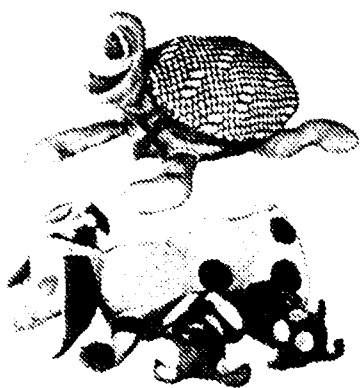
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SCOLNICK

recognized. He was a free-lance artist and a friend of Pasker's. "The guy was out of a job and I asked Sylvan whether he could help him out," recalls Pasker. "He made him president of Golden Book." (Lamb, at this point in *Philadelphia Magazine's* investigation, cannot be found. His wife, very concerned, says he hasn't been home in several weeks. Neither has he appeared at Golden Book's offices. At one point he told a friend that he was getting worried about all the papers Scolnick was having him sign without telling him what they were.)

Alan Shapiro (no relation to aforementioned Jack Shapiro), listed as a director of Golden Books, heads a Philadelphia advertising and public relations firm. "Herb Pasker called me one day," he recalls, "and briefed me on what was supposed to be the resurrection of Sylvan Scolnick. He said that Golden Book had to be a legitimate operation and Scolnick wanted a legitimate public relations agency to handle it." Shapiro says that Scolnick led him to believe that he was the majority stockholder in the corporation. There is no doubt in his mind, he says, that the fat man controlled its operation. He says he spent a good deal of time in Scolnick's home discussing advertising and public relations programs. "I cleared everything with him directly," says Shapiro.

Like most of those Scolnick conned into the deal, Shapiro wound up with little more than promises. He eventually withdrew from involvement with the corporation, lack of payment being only one of the reasons.

Was he aware, he was recently asked, that he is still listed as a director of Golden Book? "Still?" he replied. "I was never a director. They asked me once but I refused. That report is absolutely false."

ONE OF THE principal elements of deception—and perhaps even legal fraud—involved in its operation of Golden Book was its use of a Dun & Bradstreet report that was both misleading and lacked full disclosure. It was this report that was used by its salesmen to con prospects into buying publishing areas and to attract prospects through interstate advertising.

The original report issued by Dun & Bradstreet was dated February 10th, 1971. Sales were reported at \$500,000 and total current assets at \$125,000, including \$109,000 in accounts receivable. By April 28th, 1971, the report had been revised and sales were



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reported to top the \$1 million mark and total assets had climbed to \$355,903, including \$233,000 in accounts receivable.

Golden Book appeared to be one of the hottest new companies to come along in some time. "Net worth exceeds total debt, finances are in good condition," chimed the report.

What the report does *not* say is that the rosy picture it relates was based on completely unconfirmed financial figures that were concocted by the fat man running the corporation. (The report, of course, does not even mention the fact that Cherry Hill Fats is associated with Golden Book.) The report says simply that the statement was submitted by Harold Weinberg, C.P.A., of the accounting firm of Stein, Weinberg and Winderman.

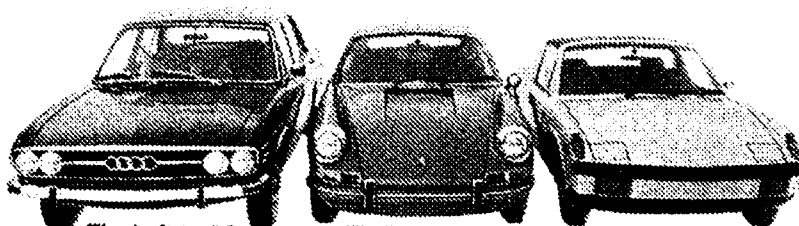
Although Weinberg is credited with the statement, the liaison between Golden Book and Dun & Bradstreet was Weinberg's partner, Stanley Stein. Also introduced to Scolnick by Jack Shapiro, Stein became very friendly with the fat man and was frequently at his house. Stein admits that he was the contact with Dun & Bradstreet for Golden Book, and a D & B representative confirms that Stein was the Golden Book spokesman.

At the very least, there may be some serious questions surrounding the role of Certified Public Accountant Stanley Stein with Dun & Bradstreet. Stein was certainly aware of the contents of the D & B report and the picture it painted of Golden Book's personnel structure and financial situation. Stein, however, permitted the report to be promulgated with its significant misrepresentations.

Although personally questioned by Dun & Bradstreet investigators about the operation of Golden Book, Stein never mentioned Sylvan Scolnick's involvement with it. ("To my knowledge he wasn't involved," Stein insists today. "He was a consultant at one time.") Neither did Stein make any attempt to correct the mistaken impression that the financial statistics in the report were based on hard realities.

In defense, Stein points to a covering letter which his firm attached to the financial statements it prepared for Golden Book. There is nothing, however, to indicate that Dun & Bradstreet was ever aware of such an attached qualification. The letter was addressed to the "Board of Directors, Golden Book Inc." and it made two critical observations:

Come see a car with an engine in the front, the back, and the middle.



The Audi 100LS

The Porsche 911

The Porsche 914

The car with the engine in the front is called the Audi.

It stops differently, turns differently, moves differently, even uses gas differently than just about every other car in the world. (Sixty-one years of German engineering experience has taught us a few things.)

The car with the engine in the rear is the Porsche 911.

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And the car without an engine in the front or the back is the Porsche 914.

We put the engine in the middle so the 914 would hold the road better, corner surer, and brake smoother than almost any other car.

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SCOLNICK

"Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable were scheduled by you and were accepted without any confirmation with debtors and creditors."

And:

"The scope of our examination was inadequate to permit the expression of an opinion on the statements as a whole."

In order for Golden Book to gross more than \$1 million in sales—as the Dun & Bradstreet report claims it was doing within five months of its incorporation—about 100 publishing areas would have had to have been sold and paid for, each publisher would have had to sell a complete book of advertising, and each publisher would have had to sell all 20,000 copies of each book (the number of books the corporation said it would provide each publisher in its original agreement) and return Golden Book's percentage of the sale.

Obviously, Cherry Hill Fats even dreams big dreams. As of two months ago, the total number of Golden Book editions that printer Herb Parker says he printed was six. (Only two of those went to the full 20,000 run; two had a 10,000 run and two only a 5000 run.)

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL the other investors who bought publishing areas from Golden Book? (Spinelli estimates that there may have been 75 who signed publisher agreements.) In almost all cases, absolutely nothing has happened. They are still waiting for Golden Book Inc. to fulfill its promises to train, supervise and provide them with advertising and promotion support to sell ads in the book. "They promised all kinds of things but didn't deliver," said a Florida investor. "They told me they had some big-name singer going to do the commercials and they had another big name doing this or that and, man, they were just blowing a lot of smoke, a lot of smoke."

A good many publishers have attempted to get their investment returned, but even those who bought early and whose agreements had a 30-day buy-back clause (a feature that Scolnick later dropped from Spinelli's original forms) were stalled until the clause expired. "I don't know what I can do now," said an exasperated investor who feels he was taken. "I don't have the money to fight them."

Under Scolnick's direction, the en-

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tire concept of Golden Book's operation has been changed. As written by Spinelli, the original agreement between Golden Book and each publisher provided that the corporation would deliver 20,000 copies of the book after all its ads were sold and it was printed. Golden Book would make the bulk of its profit from the sale of those books, which would sell to consumers at \$10 a piece. That was the most important point in helping publishers sell ads to merchants, because no ad is effective unless it is distributed.

Judging from its record so far, Golden Book's primary concern now is not whether any books are ever published and distributed. Scolnick and his cohorts, Kimball and Sanford, are really only interested in selling publishing areas because that is the principal source of their "front money," cash acquired without really providing any goods or services.

Certain other changes were recently made to insure more front money for Golden Book whether or not any books were printed. The price of a publishing area was raised from \$5500 to \$7500, the cost of each ad was hiked from the nominal \$82.50, which Spinelli originally charged, to \$195, and the number of ads that each publisher was required to sell was raised from 107 to 115.

Thus the Golden Book corporation would wind up with more than \$20,000 in front money for each area sold before it printed a single book.

Although, according to the agreement that each publisher must sign, Golden Book "is possessed of the knowledge and experience to publish the book and to supply training and knowhow to secure ads for said publication," today only a minimum of effort is devoted to actually helping publishers get out a product. That's why, despite the fact that so many areas have been sold, only a handful of books have been published.

In addition, to speed up the flow of front money coming into the corporation, the accent has been shifted to a sales technique that Kimball and Sanford had seen used so effectively in the Koscot operation. It is called "pyramid franchising." In Golden Book's case, it means being less concerned with helping a publisher turn out a product than in getting him interested in selling other franchises. That's where the front money is. The name of the game is keep the con going.

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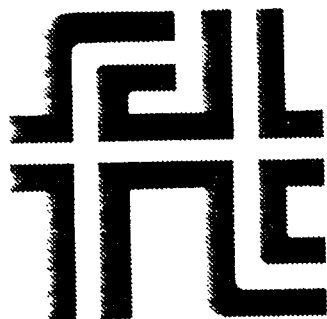
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SCOLNICK

the con going, Sylvan Scolnick is the greatest. (An especially interesting example is the case of one local publisher who, after having bought two areas, learned that Cherry Hill Fats was involved and irately demanded his money back. Scolnick not only sold him into not taking any action until his 30-day buy-back clause had expired, he also talked him into accepting the title of National Director of Publisher Sales and convinced him he could make more money selling other areas than he could as a publisher. Now the guy admits he was conned by Scolnick.)

Scolnick was going to take the con all the way to the top. He reached the point where he was discussing with a New York lawyer plans for a public offering of Golden Book stock. Considering the full disclosure clauses in the Security & Exchange Commission laws, that would have taken a lot of *chutzpah*. (Despite the fact that Scolnick was claiming he was out of the Golden Book picture, that New York attorney visited him less than three months ago.)

There were other problems. A few of Scolnick's associates began to see what was going on around them. Alan Shapiro, for instance, decided to step out when he realized the basic deception in Golden Book's altered concept. "They became more interested in selling publishers than in helping publishers sell," he says.

Even a former Koscot man like Fred Maroon found Sylvan Scolnick's machinations too tough to swallow. "I found him a personable, likeable individual but he just didn't do business the way I thought was proper. And I'm not talking about his past now, I'm talking about the present."

Maroon, in fact, hadn't known about Scolnick's past. He had been working with Jim Sanford at Koscot headquarters in Florida and had been convinced by Sanford to come up and join the Golden Book operation. "I knew Jimmy real well down here," says Maroon, who is back in Florida today, "but I didn't know anything about Jimmy or the people he knew up there. I knew him real well down here and when you know someone real well you don't do a lot of quizzing or ask a helluva lot of questions. So I got to know Sylvan as just a real colorful character. I guess I still don't know a lot of things that so many people up there know. I did learn that it was sometimes better not to mention his name."

Maroon at first didn't even know Scolnick's real name. Sanford had

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introduced the fat man to him as Sylvan Harry. Maroon had a reputation as a talented salesman and Scolnick offered him a 20% piece of the action to join Golden Book. Maroon, however, did not realize the operation would be under Scolnick's control. "The thing that turned the tide for me," he says today, "was when I found out that he was calling the shots."

Maroon claims he left Golden Book despite the fact that Scolnick still owes him money for expenses that came out of his own pocket while selling publissee prospects and, in fact, has a written agreement acknowledging the debt. "Of course," he admits, "it's about as good as the paper it's written on. I just consider myself quite fortunate to be able to get out of that situation."

Joe Spinelli's awakening didn't come until later. Out on the road for months trying to sell publishing areas, he couldn't keep abreast of the fat man's activities back in Cherry Hill. Working without a salary and taking expenses out of the commissions he was able to squeeze back from Scolnick from the sales he made, Spinelli was struggling along with promises that the financial tide would turn any day. He became suspicious, however, when he learned that Scolnick had not been making the monthly payments on his car or sending support checks to his wife, as he had promised he would. That's what prompted him to tape record a telephone call he made to Scolnick from Florida one day late last February. It is significant in that Scolnick reveals not only the financial state of the company but his absolute control over it—information quite contrary to what was being promulgated in its Dun & Bradstreet report at that very time:

"Syl?"

"Ya, how ya doin', Joe?"

"How ya been?"

"Oh, so so. What's new?"

"I wanted to ask a couple questions. Now follow me carefully, Syl, because I'm . . . I'm a little upset."

"About what, Joe?"

"Look, one, I found the Golden Book, right?"

"Yeah."

"O.K. I told you I had problems, right?"

"Go ahead."

"O.K. Then we made a verbal agreement that we were all to share equally."

"Joe, wait . . ."

"Just, just . . ."

"Wait, listen, Joe. I know all the

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history. Just tell me what is it you want."

"O.K., wait, now, am I right so far?"

"Joe, I know the history of what's transpired over the last eight months. Tell me what you want. What's your problem?"

"Money, Syl."

"Well, Joe . . . now I want to ask you a question, Joe."

"Yeah."

"Now I want to ask you something, pal. Now, let's be honest with one another, Joe. If the money was here and I had the cash . . . the first piece that comes in, I'll cut you a check, you'll have expense money. I'm gonna take care of the car and take care of the insurance. I told them last night to tell you that as soon as the first check comes in I will."

"But . . ."

"I promise you that I will. It's not here, Joe. Where's it coming from?"

"O.K., wait. In the beginning you kept saying I didn't like money, right?"

"Joe, Joe, that's not important, Joe. You asked me a question."

"Syl, first of all, I don't have much left . . ."

"All right, I understand it, Joe . . ."

"Wait, we were supposed to share equally. All this time, while Jim was in prison, he got a \$1,000 a month. Ron has pulled in thousands of dollars."

"Joe, now if we talk about sharing equal, I haven't drawn \$5."

"O.K., wait, just let me finish. We paid secretaries like \$80, sales people \$200 a week . . ."

"Well, Joe, without sales people, without secretaries, there is no business. You'll go along with that, won't you?"

"Yeah, but in the meantime, Syl, the only thing that I've ever asked for is that when there was an expense . . . now my car is gone on three months down . . ."

"Joe, Joe, I'm renting my car out to somebody so to take the expense off. Do you understand, Joe, I'm renting my car to somebody. The cash isn't here. The first piece that comes in this week, I told you again, I'll take care of you. I gave you my word. Have I ever lied to you, Joe?"

"I've been long waiting for some things sometimes."

"All right, Joe, if that's been the case, it's the same story like with me, but as soon as the cash is here, Joe, I tell you that I'll send it. Joe, if I don't have it I can't take it. Joe, you don't want me to just drop dead for

you, do you, Joe? Joe, if I had the money, do you think you'd have to call me, Joe?"

"Syl . . ."

"Honestly, would you have to call me? (SILENCE) Now you're 1300 miles away from me."

"Yeah."

"If you were up here, Joe, what would I tell you? I would sit you down, I'd say 'Here, Joe, take \$50 or \$100, if that's what you need. But I don't have it. Joe, it's just not here. I'm telling you I'm just trying to get cleaned up. I got a problem I just straightened out with the Bell Tel with these big phone bills. I had over \$3,000 in phone bills. Joe, that they were gonna close down the phone. Joe, all the shit had to be straightened out, and now we're on the brink of everything, and everything is getting right, and now, now you're gonna start gettin' touch-and-go with me?"

"Touch-and-go, Syl? It's eight months that I've lived like an animal with no money, no place to live . . ."

"Joe, Joe, you haven't lived any different than I have, and I got a place for you to live, Joe. I've got a place for you here. I've made arrangements. See, I think about you, you son-of-a-bitch. But you don't think about me."

"I don't think about you?"

"No, now listen, I've made arrangements and I've taken Marvin's apartment. When you come up, you got his apartment in the Northgate, with all the furniture, I got everything set up for you, a nice place to live, fully furnished. I mean, what else do you want me to do? Do you know that the company is taking all that tariff for you, all the furniture, and you got a nice place to live. Now, I can't do more than that for you, Joe. I think of you every time that I can, but there is no money available now. But I told you, the first piece that comes in, I positively will cut you something and send it down right away so you have money in your pocket. O.K., Joe?"

"How are we fixed financially?"

"I just told you, I think we got about 80-some dollars."

"I . . . I . . . I don't have a dime on me, Syl."

"I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll cut you a few dollars. I'll cut you a few dollars out today . . ."

"We're so flat broke, do you know what we ate last night? Rice."

"Well, now listen, Joe. You're with me. You understand?"

"Yeah."

"Now I have to worry about you, and if you're sick, I'm sick. And if

you're short, I'm short. But Joe, I have to worry about Joe, because you're my man. You understand? Now, what I will do is I'll cut some for Dan, when the check comes in too. You know, like to cover his expenses for handling you and the trailer and all. You know, like a fifty dollar bill, a hundred dollars or so, you know what I mean?"

"Yeah."

"But, Joe, I can't do any better than that, Joe. You understand? But as soon as it's here, Joe, you'll have it."

"All right."

"All right, now just hold on tight and try and generate some ad money down here, you know what I mean, and you know, give us the boost, and try and grab a publissee."

"Well, I'm gonna. We'll grab a publissee, but out of that I need the three car payments."

"All right, don't worry, I will. I'll take care of it. O.K., babe?"

"O.K."

"And don't let's argue. Listen, Ronnie and Jim and all that other bullshit, and everything else, that's secondary. You understand, Joe? You understand what I'm saying to you?"

"Yeah."

"All right, keep it tight, and listen, call me, just to say hello."

Upon his return from the road, Spinelli made numerous attempts to find out what was going on, to get the structure of the company finalized and to get his portion of the stock that Scolnick had promised to him. Scolnick kept throwing him bones to pacify him. He gave him Mary Abrams' former apartment and furniture in the Northgate, a Camden high-rise, and kept trying to stall him. Spinelli eventually gave up in disgust, had a showdown with Scolnick and walked away to start a competing operation in Philadelphia, based again on his original concept.

When *Philadelphia Magazine* began its investigation of Sylvan Scolnick's involvement with Golden Book, Spinelli was contacted and asked to cooperate. The fat man immediately panicked. He dropped word in the district attorney's office that Spinelli was going to frame him, that he was going to plant dope on him and set him up. He called the U.S. attorney's office in Philadelphia and complained that *Philadelphia Magazine* was involved in a conspiracy to put him back in jail. He hired a former Philadelphia detective to take depositions from a jilted girlfriend of Spinelli's. He had a criminal complaint filed by Mary Abrams against Spinelli for taking the

furniture out of the Northgate apartment. (The apartment and furniture which Scolnick said he was giving to Spinelli in that telephone conversation from Florida were actually in Mary Abrams' name, although paid for by Golden Book Inc. Spinelli was never told that and, when he quit Golden Book and moved out of the apartment, he gave the furniture to a salesman of his named Phil Tannenbaum. Shortly after *Philadelphia Magazine* contacted Spinelli, Tannenbaum was arrested on a private warrant for receiving stolen goods. Scolnick denied he had anything to do with it, but Kimball and Sanford showed up at Tannenbaum's arraignment and offered to drop the charge if Tannenbaum would help them build a case against Spinelli.)

Sylvan Scolnick is frantically attempting to build a defense against these revelations of his association with Golden Book. He reportedly has had several warrants sworn against Spinelli, charging him with a variety of crimes and frauds. He called Jack Shapiro and asked him to cooperate against Spinelli, promising him the finder's fee which he owed him in return. When he learned, however, that Shapiro was also talking to *Philadelphia Magazine*, he had him arrested for attempted blackmail. (Shapiro will probably sue for false arrest based on recorded conversations of Scolnick inviting him to his house and promising to pay him what he owed him.)

Through it all, of course, Sylvan Scolnick is denying any significant affiliation with Golden Book. Significantly, however, when U.S. Attorney in Newark, Herbert J. Stern, now cracking down hard on organized racketeering in Jersey, subpoenaed Golden Book's records recently, Scolnick immediately hired himself a top-notch criminal lawyer from Jersey City, of all places.

Scolnick is obviously very concerned. The lawyer he hired is named Ray Brown and he has represented the highest echelon of Jersey's Mafioso. Scolnick has told friends that, if necessary, he will make a deal with the U.S. Attorney to prevent his pressing the Golden Book matter. Scolnick says he could give the U.S. Attorney plenty of information about other big racketeers in South Jersey and he is willing to deal. What he is not willing to do is go back to jail. Above all else, he has said, he does not want to go back to jail.

Suddenly Sylvan Scolnick seems to have remembered that jail is a very special hell for a fat man. ■ ■

PROTECTING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

We are witnessing, with interest and approval, one of the less dramatic, but more important outgrowths of the ecology movement. The federal government is now considering legislation which



Stephen A. Ritt

will, for the first time, coordinate all activities governing the sale, use and distribution of pesticides. Probably the outstanding feature of the proposed bill is to classify pesticides in two ways: general use pesticides which will be made available to all, and restricted use pesticides which will be provided only to those evincing prior knowledge as to competency and responsibility.

We applaud the government's attitude in this area. Proper legislation can prevent needless problems resulting from the misuse or over use of potentially harmful pesticides by unqualified people. Equally important, it will hold our industry accountable to maintain proper standards. We are professionals. We endorse any action which will bring a greater degree of professionalism to our industry and which will provide the public with the protection it deserves; the protection that we have been providing for nearly one half century.

Stephen A. Ritt

**Termites? Call Terminix.
LO 7-1550**

**Pests? Call Vogel-Ritt.
SH 8-1700**

Divisions of Ritt Consolidated Industries Inc.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 1/8/65

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (80-100)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The January 1965 issue of the "Greater Philadelphia Magazine" carried an editorial in which the editor, D. HERBERT LIPSON, stated that the magazine was publishing "an unpleasant story" regarding Mayor JAMES H. J. TATE, Philadelphia.

"One of the things we have felt uneasiest about of late is the quality of administration the city has been getting. One of the most serious questions in our mind was why the Mayor of Philadelphia seemed to be acting more like a Ward Leader than a Mayor. Why for instance was he meddling in the day-to-day affairs of the Police Department. Why did he feel it necessary to surround himself with a squad of armed body guards around the clock. What was going on in the ward he so insistently sought to keep political control of."

The article is entitled, "Report From the 43rd Ward" by GAETON FONZI, a very capable reporter on the "Greater Philadelphia Magazine" staff.

In the article mention is made of the fact that Deputy Commissioner EDWARD J. BELL (NA), is apparently a political protege of Mayor TATE's. There is no mention or indication of unethical or questionable conduct on the part of Deputy Commissioner BELL.

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 1)
1 - Philadelphia (80-100)

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PH 80-100

On the sixth page of the enclosed nine page article mention is made of a high police official who was influenced in making transfers by Mayor TATE who at that time was President of Council. The influence was brought to bear because of his domestic troubles at that time. This official was former Police Commissioner THOMAS J. GIBBONS. PA

The enclosed copy is forwarded for the Bureau's advice.

REPORT FROM

IT WAS EARLY YET and there were still about a half dozen empty stools around the main bar at the Randolph Social Club, which means that it was not yet two o'clock in the morning and there were only about 150 people in the place because the bar is about as long as a football field. "These guys with you?" a little beady-eyed character with sunken cheeks standing in the doorway was asking a kid by the name of the Donk who had just walked in with these two guys. The little guy knew the Donk and did not have to ask to see his membership card but he did not know the other two. "Yeah. Yeah, they're with me," said the Donk. "I mean do you know them good, can you trust them?" asked the little guy. "Yeah, sure," said the Donk. "You remember Mochie? This is his son Sam. The other guy's an old pal." The little guy glanced over to Tommy the Boot who was standing back by the coat-check counter. The Boot did not give him the red light so he said OK. The three new-comers strolled down the front of the bar and grabbed a few of the empty stools. "Whataya drinkin'?" asked Pete the Greek, one of the Boot's bartenders and musclemen. The guys ordered their drinks. "Where's the action?" asked the Donk. "Wait a half hour," said the Greek. "You won't be able to move there'll be so much action."

The Randolph Social Club does not look like a place where you would expect the action to be. From the outside it's damn near inconspicuous; snuggled between a couple of plain-looking buildings on Erie Avenue near 5th Street, it has a flat stucco front with a little cubicle of an entrance-way sticking out across the sidewalk. Inside there are two bars, the big one that stretches the length of the place and a small square one to the right of the entrance. Facing the center of the main bar is a small bandstand with a dance area about the size of a pizza pie in front of it. Rows of



TOMMY THE BOOT

tables and chairs reach out from both sides of it. The place is dimly lit with those purple passion bulbs that most joints like that have to give them the type of atmosphere the people who go to them feel at home in. There are broads with bikinis painted on all the walls. Come to think of it, maybe it does look like a place where you would expect the action.

In the 43rd ward, the Randolph Social Club is the action. By 2:30 one Saturday morning last month the joint was jumping. There must have been close to a thousand people in the place and if you wanted a drink you had to reach through three guys and two chicks to grab it. The dance floor was packed with bodies writhing to the blare of a mad combo. The guys were either young and tough looking or middle-aged and tough looking. The girls came in all sizes, shapes and ages, from about 19 on up, with wild hair and tight clothes. There were a few waitresses in white smocks who dropped in for a drink on their way from work and a few hookers with low-slung dresses who dropped in with their Johns on the way to work.

"I don't know why the hell you wanted to come here for," Sam was saying to his old pal. "This place is nothing but young gunks and tough guys."

"Who you calling punks," says the Donk. "Some of these guys are my best friends. I been to jail with some of these guys."

"You telling me," says Sam. "I seen every gambler and crook I know in the neighborhood. Gooney over there just got out of a Federal pen on a counterfeiting charge and that guy Clancy there is one of the biggest burglars in town. And you could just about pick up any broad you want here, they're all cheaters. Sure, even those young ones, they're married and out running around. This place has got everything, even strip shows here sometimes. And a poolroom

THE 43RD WARD

By GAETON FONZI

and card games upstairs."

By 3 o'clock, the legal closing time for private clubs, the place looks like it has also got the whole 43rd ward population inside, but it mustn't because they are still pouring in the door. The booze is flowing like water and the scene is a smoke-blurred mass of carousing revelers. It goes on to about a quarter to four in the morning when the bartenders start yelling last call. Drinks keep getting poured to 4 o'clock. By this time a red car has pulled up and double-parked in front of the place and a line of waiting cabs stretches out behind it all the way to 5th Street. The cops come in and gab with the Boot. At about 4:15 the lights are flashed off and on and the place begins emptying out. By 4:30 the Boot himself is going around clapping his hands and yelling that it is time to close up.

"I wonder why they are kicking us out so early tonight," says the Donk. "I've staggered out of this place some mornings in daylight. Maybe the man at City Hall is worried about something."

"You mean Tate?" asks Sam's old pal.

"Sure. Him and the Boot are old friends. Whatever he says goes in the 43rd ward. Man, don't you know where you're at? You're in Tate's territory!"

THIS IS THE STORY of Tate's territory, the 43rd ward. This is the story of a ward leader by the name of James H. J. Tate and how he runs the ward and some of the things that are going on up there.

THE FACT THAT James H. J. Tate is the ward leader of the 43rd ward and a committeeman of its 28th division would not be quite as significant if James H. J. Tate were



JIM TATE

not the mayor of Philadelphia. It makes a difference. It makes a difference because there is an indication that certain conditions existing in the ward bear a relationship to it. It makes a difference because the gradual but irrefutable change in the methods and policies as well as the tone and temper of the administration of the city itself can be traced directly to it. And it makes a difference because the very nature — his strength and his weaknesses as well as his volcanic personality — of the man currently responsible for the destiny of this complex

metropolis can only be fathomed with that fact in mind.

The methods and techniques of a ward leader are based on certain specific goals which are the measure of success in his job. He must develop the associations and allegiances necessary for the accomplishment of that job if he is to function as a political power in his domain. His whole attitude and direction are dictated not only by a consensus of what his constituents in general think is best for their ward but also by the desires and needs of those individuals who are at the core of his power structure, his own workers and financial contributors. Ideals aside, the nature of the political system demands that a ward leader give primary consideration to the latter if he is at all interested in self-perpetuation. Most ward leaders are men of limited vision and ambition. They've achieved a post of adequate status in the political hierarchy — ward leaders are, after all, members of their party's City Committee. They are satisfied just to endure. James H. J. Tate, ward leader of the 43rd ward, has more than just endured.

THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS of the 43rd ward are the most clearly definable, since its boundaries cut across neighborhoods and ethnic enclaves. Roughly funnel-shaped, it sits atop north-central Philadelphia at Lehigh Avenue, a

wide thoroughfare of commercial establishments and big, flat-faced apartment houses which were once stately homes. Its eastern border runs straight up Fifth Street from Lehigh to Wingohocking, the northern boundary of the ward. Its western border is Germantown Avenue, cobble-stoned and trolley-tracked, which slants down from around the Reading's Wayne Junction station to Lehigh, cutting across Broad Street at Erie Avenue. Compared with the city's 59 other wards, it is middling in size, with 22 encompassing a larger area than its 1,461 square miles and 23 having more than its 42,000 population.

The Schuylkill Expressway extension slices through the northwest section of the ward and emerges on Roosevelt Boulevard just north of Hunting Park, a sprawling green area with picnic groves and a swimming pool for the 43rd's juvenile inhabitants. From a point on the Expressway where it rises to cross over Germantown Avenue, the 43rd ward is a dull vista, strips of flat row-home roofs and squat manufacturing plants with smoke-belching soot-crusted chimneys, narrow streets and tight alleyways. The row homes have porches, almost all painted a monotonous brown, or are flat-faced with two or three short marble steps at the front door. It is a neighborhood of small grocery stores, luncheonettes and corner taprooms.

The 43rd takes in parts of Germantown, Nicetown and Tioga. It was once predominantly German but is now an amalgamation of ethnic neighborhoods. There is a heavy Italian section in its eastern divisions; Poles, Slovaks, Ukrainians, Lithuanians in the Nicetown section; Negro areas along parts of Germantown Avenue and in the southwest corner; and a generous sprinkling of Irish throughout. There are no new homes in the area and while many of the older ones are on the verge of decay, most are generally well kept. Economically, the families in the ward can be classified from lower middle to middle class, rarely higher. It is a ward where the men come home at night tired from a hard day's work and like to drop in the neighborhood saloon for a beer and sit down with the boys on the weekend for a card game and occasionally put a couple of bucks on a horse on a hot tip.

James H. J. Tate was born 54 years ago in the 43rd ward. He has never left it. The house in which he was raised on Delhi near Erie is less than a dozen blocks from his present home on 7th Street near Lycoming. He attended St. Stephen's parochial school on Broad and Butler and got

his first job as a bookkeeper with a lock maker on 11th and Allegheny. He and his three younger brothers ran one of the largest paper routes in the area. He played baseball and basketball for one of the local clubs. Jim Tate is a neighborhood boy all the way.

It takes a neighborhood boy to get ahead in ward politics. Young Tate, the son of a Navy Yard worker, was well-known and liked. Everybody knew he was a go-getter. While working for \$15 a week during the day, he had gone to evening high school and, later, to a business school and Temple Law School. A boy from the 43rd ward who did that sort of stuff was sure to get talked about in the neighborhood. It was no wonder that old John Haney, a saloon-keeper who was the Democratic ward boss at the time, got the idea that Jim Tate would be a good candidate for committeeman in his division. Tate was 27 then and clerking for Montgomery & McCracken, a big law firm in town. (He was never to finish up his law credits but Temple finally gave him an honorary law degree in 1960.) Of course Tate had always voted Republican, but that didn't bother Haney who was a former Republican himself. Haney talked him into becoming a Democratic committeeman in the ward's 28th division. Jim Tate still holds that job.

Tate turned out to be a hotshot committeeman. It wasn't long before he was running up and down his blocks, knocking on doors, talking to people he knew, telling them to come out and vote for his party. He learned a lot as a committeeman. He learned that very few people will vote the way you want them to vote because they believe in the same principles as your party. They will vote the way you want them to vote if they know you and like you, if they know your family or relatives or if you have done them a favor. The Tate family was well known in the neighborhood and young Tate did such a good job in his division that in 1940 ward boss Haney slated him for the State House of Representatives. He got in on Roosevelt's coat-tails. (Run-

ning for Congress that year was another hotshot committeeman from the 43rd ward, Frank Smith, who later, having lost out in grabbing control of the 43rd, moved to another ward and eventually stepped up to his present post as Democratic City Committee chairman.)

Jim Tate was in control of the 43rd ward even before he became ward leader in 1946. Haney was in his 80's and had gradually turned over more and more of the ward's operation to his young protege. Besides, Tate had met and became good friends with an up-and-coming ward leader from the neighboring 33rd by the name of Bill Green. By 1941 Tate found himself working downtown in Democratic City Committee headquarters as its executive secretary and assistant to party treasurer Jim Clark. This, together with his seat in the house (which he was to hold for three terms), gave him enough connections to begin to establish a power base, through favots done and jobs obtained, back in the ward.

It turned out to be quite a formidable base. In the 1942 election, with the Republicans having 7000 more registered voters, Tate took his own house seat by close to 2000 votes and swung the ward to Democratic candidates for the State Senate, Congress and U. S. Senate by an average of 1500 votes. In 1943, Republican Barney Samuel swept Philadelphia's mayoralty contest; Tate's ward went Democratic by 53 votes, despite the fact that there were 8000 more registered Republicans. In fact, the Democrats didn't get an edge in registrations in the 43rd until the middle of the 50's, but no Republican for state or local office has carried the ward since 1947.

Much of Tate's tightening grip on the ward bore a direct relation to his rise in the city's political hierarchy. As Jim Clark's man at City Committee headquarters, he wielded an influence among other ward leaders that was beyond his official position as just another member of City Committee. Besides, they knew he had developed close associations with Clark and Green and John B. Kelly, key party powers. Jim Tate was one of "the boys," the professional politicians upon whom the front-line reformers like Joe Clark and Dick Dilworth had to depend for basic electoral support.

Tate's star rose. In 1951 he was elected to City Council from the 7th District, which encompasses the 33rd, 37th, 38th and 43rd wards. In 1955 he was elected president of City Council and in February, 1962, when Dilworth stepped down to run for governor, Tate was made acting mayor.

Tate didn't power his way into any of these jobs. He was put into these key slots because the Democratic party bosses, Jim Clark and Bill Green, had the utmost faith in his loyalty and organization allegiance. In fact, when a top Democratic politico later went to Green and questioned the wisdom of Green's having given the nod to Tate to run for mayor on his own in view of the fact that the politico thought that Tate was displaying an increasing arrogance with every little bit of additional power he acquired, Green told him bluntly, "Don't worry about Jim. I can handle him."

W

hat is especially significant is that with every step Tate climbed up the ladder of political status, his ward organization back in the 43rd became more entrenched and his grip on that organization grew stronger. To try to fathom the complex psychological factors behind the obvious necessity of remaining an important cog in the neighborhood political structure while the reins of government of a mighty metropolis is in his hands is not a simple matter. He is a boy from a neighborhood of common, hard-working people who made good, and perhaps it's natural that there is a certain kind of pride derived from what might be called environmental heritage not gotten elsewhere. At any rate, there is no doubt that Tate put every position of influence he attained to use as a ward leader.

It is not an easy thing to be a good ward leader. It is more than a full-time job. The telephone at home rings all hours of the day and night, calls from constituents and committeemen, usually wanting something. Someone wants a ticket fixed, a copy of the charge from a magistrate, tickets for the Mummies Parade, a job as a fireman, a stop sign on the corner, a zoning variance to operate a beauty parlor, a son taken out of jail. Then there is the constant task of keeping committeemen happy and on their toes, watching for moving vans in the neighborhood, getting people registered, having registrations changed, continued on page 116

Report from the 43rd Ward

continued from page 1

checking on addresses and youngsters coming of age. In fact, one of the keys to a ward leader's success are committeemen who are loyal and hard-working. One of the principal means ward leaders use to keep committeemen loyal and hard-working is by getting them jobs dependent upon political sponsorship. This was Tate's wedge in the early days of his leadership. With the Republicans hoarding the patronage pie in Philadelphia, Tate used his association with Demo bigwigs to grab as many state and federal jobs that were around as he could. When the Democrats took over City Hall, constituents flocked to offer their loyalty. A number of loyal Republican committeemen became loyal Democratic committeemen.

By himself, however, a committeeman is a relatively powerless individual, though many ward leaders will work through their committeemen in serving their constituents. In the 43rd ward, Jim Tate was always the man to see. "I remember him sitting up in his house all hours of the night listening to everybody's trouble," recalls a former aide. "It was like he was hearing confessions. And the answer was always, 'I'll take care of it.' And most of the time he did."

First call. Whatever his job, the constituents of the 43rd ward always came first in Jim Tate's mind. "I remember when I first took over my department and Tate was president of City Council," says a former City Commissioner who served under Dilworth, "he came to me and told me frankly that he wanted to establish good relations with me because he would be coming to me to ask me to do favors for voters in his ward. Then when he became acting mayor, he even called me at home to complain that one of my inspectors had been bothering one of his voters in the ward."

The bulk of a ward leader's time is devoted to doing favors for his voters. Unfortunately, whenever a voter seeks out his ward leader he usually wants something which he cannot get expeditiously through ordinary channels. Most of the time he is in trouble. Voters who get in trouble most often are those who derive their livelihoods from those activities outside the law. The fact is they are still voters, and often well-heeled ones at that. Come election time, if there is one thing that has as great an influence on the outcome as loyal, hard-working commit-

teemen, it is the ability of the political organization to distribute funds to its workers. Given the racketeer's desire to conduct his business of catering to illicit human appetites in an atmosphere of reasonable security, there is bound to be a relationship between the rackets and politics. And it follows, that the branches of government service where politicians with racket associations would most like to have their influence felt are the law enforcement agencies.

James Tate has always been finicky about allusions to his association with racketeers in the 43rd ward. In February of 1961, when GREATER PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE published an article on gambling in Philadelphia and referred to a section of the city as "Tate's territory," the then-City Council president went to great pains to explain, over a luncheon with the publisher, that the description had certain inadvertent implications which might damage his reputation. After all, he was a respected member of the community, a family man, a high city official, a member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Pennsylvania Society, the Hunting Park Recreation Advisory Council, St. Veronica's Church and its Good Friday Observance Committee.

Yet, there is a heavy racket element in the ward and there is no indication that Tate has ever done anything to antagonize it. In fact, it was Tate who insisted, soon after he became ward leader, that a magistrate come from his ward. He picked an old-time ward loyalist, James J. Powers, Sr., who had been in the county commissioners' office as chief of the department of weights and measures, a bureau with a heritage that is not exactly untainted. (Powers, now about 75, was picked by Tate to run for the 43rd's State House seat in 1962 after an old pal, Tom McCormack, who had held it since 1952, stepped down, thinking he had Tate's support for City Council. After Powers was slated, Tate dumped McCormack.)

Now it may be inevitable, growing up in a neighborhood like the 43rd ward, that certain friendships and associations may develop over the years with local characters who have not been fortunate enough to avoid police contact. It can probably be said that a good many law-abiding people in the 43rd ward know someone who is not law-abiding. It is a matter of choice whether or not friendships and associations develop. A politician's choice, however, may be tempered by special considerations. A racketeer's



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TO DIRECTOR (92-3267) IMMEDIATE -849p068

PHOENIX IMMEDIATE 837p-067

BT WFO IMMEDIATE 1015p-074

CLEAR

UNSUB; JOHN ROSELLI-VICTIM, OOJ, OO: MIAMI.

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RE PHOENIX LHM DATED 8/10/76 CAPTIONED [REDACTED]

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IT WOULD APPEAR THAT [REDACTED] COULD BE A SELF-SERVING

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ASSOCIATED WITH ROSELLI IN THE PAST AND SINCE HE CLAIMS TO HAVE

BEEN CONTACTED VIA TELEPHONE FROM MIAMI FLORIDA BY ONE GAETON

FONZI IDENTIFIED BY HIM AS AN INVESTIGATOR FOR SENATOR

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PAGE TEN PX 72-73

RE PHOENIX LHM DATED AUGUST 10, 1976, CAPTITNED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] INFORMATION CONCERNING" AND MIAMI TEL DATED
AUGUST 17, 1976.

CONCERNING THE CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR GAEON FONZI IN
MIAMI, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] STATED HE HAD NOT ATTEMPTED TO RETURN A
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HIM.

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TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

CHICAGO ROUTINE

DETROIT ROUTINE

KANSAS CITY ROUTINE

LAS VEGAS ROUTINE

LOS ANGELES ROUTINE

MIAMI ROUTINE

NEWARK ROUTINE

NEW YORK ROUTINE

TAMPA ROUTINE

BT

E F T O

"ROSKIL", OOJ, OO:MIAMI

RE WFO TEL TO DIRECTOR AND AUXILIARY OFFICES, AUGUST 19,
1976; MIAMI TEL TO DIRECTOR, PHOENIX AND WFO, AUGUST 15, 1976;
LOS ANGELES TEL TO DIRECTOR, JACKSONVILLE, MIAMI, AND WFO
AUGUST 19, 1976.

INFORMATION CONCERNING.

92-517-232

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PAGE TWO WF 72-217 E F T O

WASHINGTON FIELD DETERMINED WASHINGTON TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF 224-9024, 5, AND 6 ARE ALL ASSIGNED TO THE CAPITOL HILL OFFICE OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER. INQUIRY BY SA [] DETERMINED THAT GAETON FONZI IS A STAFF INVESTIGATOR FOR SCHWEIKER'S COMMITTEE. GAETON FONZI TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SA [] AT WHICH TIME HE ADVISED HIS MIAMI TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 861-7651. (IT IS TO BE NOTED MIAMI HAS THE WRONG PHONE NUMBER [] IN THEIR COMMUNICATION AND THE LISTEE, [] HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS CASE.) CONTINUING, FONZI ADVISED INSTANT NUMBER IS LOCATED AT HIS HOME 7532 WEST TREASURE DRIVE, NORTH BAY VILLAGE (MIAMI, FLORIDA) 33141. FONZI STATED HE CONTACTED [] REGARDING POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. HE STATED HE RECEIVED [] NAME AND BACKGROUND AS [] [] A FORMER FBI AGENT (WELL-KNOWN TO THE BUREAU) AND HE DID NOT FEEL EITHER [] OR [] WERE OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL VALUE. PRESENTLY FONZI STATED HE IS WORKING ON A PROJECT REGARDING FRANK STURGIS (CONVICTED WATERGATE BURGLAR) WHO IS "TALKING AROUND TOWN" THAT RUBY HAD BEEN TO CUBA TO SEE CASTRO

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PAGE THREE WF 72-217 E F T O

PRIOR TO KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION AND SUBSEQUENT
KILLING OF OSWALD BY RUBY. THIS FACET OF INVESTIGATION COM-
PLETED BY WASHINGTON FIELD.

CONCERNING [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] CONTACT BY WASHINGTON FIELD WITH THE SENATE SELECT
COMMITTEE TO STUDY UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES DETERMINED HE WAS NEVER CALLED UPON
TO TESTIFY BUT HE DID ACCOMPANY ROSSELLI ON ONE OR TWO OF
HIS PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED APPEARANCES AS LEGAL COUNSEL AND
ALSO PRESENT AT THOSE SESSIONS WERE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED (AUGUST
3, 1976) PRIOR TO RECOVERY OF ROSSELLI'S BODY AND THE 302
REFLECTING THIS INTERVIEW WILL BE FORWARDED TO BUREAU AND
APPROPRIATE OFFICES BY AIRTEL. WASHINGTON FIELD PLANS TO
RE-INTERVIEW [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] FOR ANY ADDITIONAL CURRENT
INFORMATION AND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT LOS ANGELES DIVISION
CONDUCT SIMILAR INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] ATTEMPT
WAS MADE THIS DATE TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AND AR-
RANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR INTERVIEW TO BE CONDUCTED ON MONDAY,

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Date: SEPTEMBER 2, 1976

995037,
994883,
4
995039
4⁰⁰ PM

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

~~SECRET~~

Via TELETYPE IMMEDIATE
(Precedence)

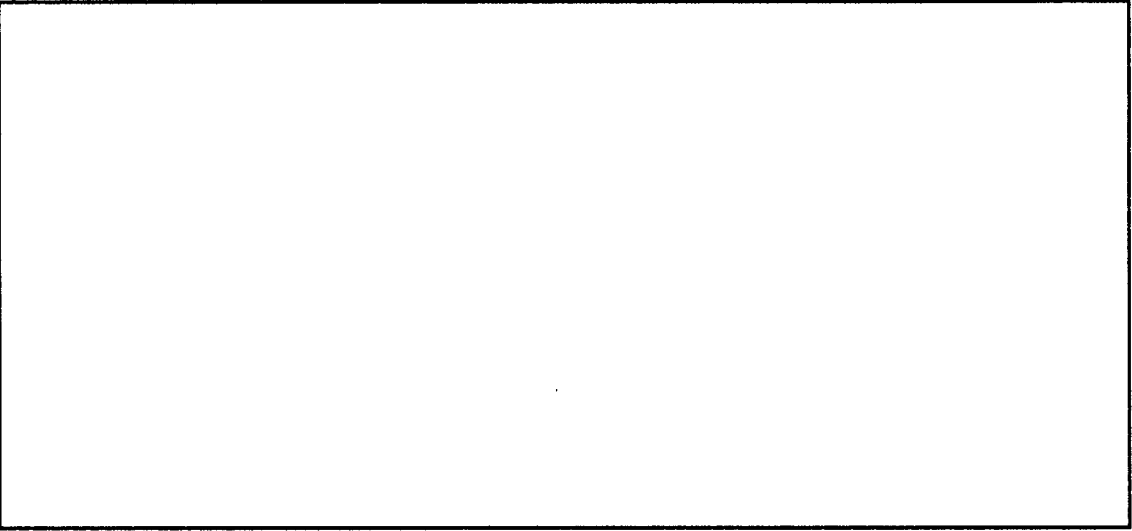
FM MIAMI (92-517) P
TO DIRECTOR (72-2382) IMMEDIATE
BT

~~SECRET~~

ATTENTION AD RICH GALLAGHER, ^{General}~~CENTRAL~~ INVEST. DIVISION, DIVISION
6.

ROSKIL, 00J.

^{AIRTEL 8/19/76}
RE BUREAU ~~SELECTIVE~~ CAPTIONED (UD); IS - CUBA.



(1) - Miami
VJW:mes
(1)
mes



D

Approved: 
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 435 PM M Per NAC

b6
b7C
b7D

b6
b7C

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO MM 92-517 ~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

SOURCE IDENTIFIED GAETON FONZI AS SEN. SCHWEIKER'S MIAMI
INVESTIGATOR, AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PER THE RE BUREAU TELETYPE, MIAMI HAS BEEN FORBIDDEN TO
RECONTACT THIS SOURCE, "IN VIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND, AND THE
AVERAGE QUALITY OF INFORMATION FURNISHED TO DATE".

MIAMI REQUESTS THE BUREAU TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

THIS SOURCE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN OTHER FIELDS,

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

b7D

b7D

b6
b7C
b7D

airtel

5-11-77

To: SACs, Washington Field - Enc. (2)
Miami - Enc. (2)
Newark - Enc. (2)
Philadelphia - Enc. (2)
Atlanta - Enc. (2)
St. Louis - Enc. (2)
Baltimore - Enc. (2)
Alexandria - Enc. (2)
New York - Enc. (2)

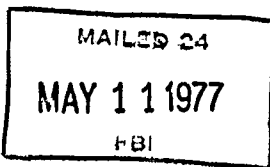
From: Director, FBI

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI
SPECIAL INQUIRY
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
BUDED: 5-26-77

Chairman, above committee, has requested investigation of Fonzi who is being considered for staff position. Born 10-10-35, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and resides 7532 West Treasure Drive, North Bay Village, Florida. Background data and records release attached.

SPIN

2 ENCLOSURE



REC-25
DE-39
EX-101

N 161-12863

7 MAY 13 1977

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Adm. Serv. _____
Crim. Inv. _____
Fin. & Pers. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Tech. Serv. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____

Note: Request received today. Two copies of summary should be sent to committee.

RER: 1jm (IX)
(20)

RETURN TO ROOM 3117

70 AUG 24 1977

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI/DOJ

airtel

To: BUREAU

5-11-77

BA USE ONLY

To: SACs, Washington Field - Enc. (2)

Miami - Enc. (2)

Newark - Enc. (2)

Philadelphia - Enc. (2)

Atlanta - Enc. (2)

St. Louis - Enc. (2)

Baltimore - Enc. (2)

Alexandria - Enc. (2)

New York - Enc. (2)

From: ^{BA} Director, FBI

AGENCY	RES	DATE	INT	U
DCI	NR	5/13	via	DR
AD				
DIS				
NIS				
CSI				

STATUS: Rec 5/13/77

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI

SPECIAL INQUIRY

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

BUDED: 5-26-77

Chairman, above committee, has requested investigation of Fonzi who is being considered for staff position. Born 10-10-35, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and resides 7532 West Treasure Drive, North Bay Village, Florida. Background data and records release attached.

SPIN

BA FILE TO BE
DESTROYED IN 120 DAYS

Deep

GR Deep

SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 1977	
FBI - BALTIMORE	

Fonzi, Gaeton Joseph

C 6-1 10-10-35

CIVIL 1-A

FBI #

17 L 1 U OII 15
M 1 Ra IO

US House of Rep Wash DC 5-13-77

A search of the fingerprints on the above individual has failed to disclose
prior arrest data.

Identification Division
FBI

No Civils

b6
b7C

Ident(FPC)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Records Branch

5/12, 1977☒ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.☐ Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg.

b6

☒ Forward to File Review

b7C

☐ Attention ☐ Return to

Supervisor

Room

Ext.

Type of Search Requested:

☒ Restricted Search Not Applied☐ All Reference (Subversive & Nonsubversive)☐ Subversive Search☐ Nonsubversive Search☐ Main _____ References Only

Special Instructions:

☐ Restricted to Locality of _____☒ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)☐ Buildup☐ Variations

Subject

FONZI, GAETANO

Birthdate & Place

1900 - Italy

Address

deceased

Localities

MAY 12 1977

R#

Date

5-2

Searcher

Initials

315

Prod.

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

NIL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Records Branch5/12, 19 77☒ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.☐ Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg.

b6

☒ Forward to File Review

b7C

☒ Attention ☒ Return to Supervisor 0 Room 2634 Ext. 5642

Type of Search Requested:

☒ Restricted Search **Not** Applied☐ All Reference (Subversive & Nonsubversive)☐ Subversive Search☐ Nonsubversive Search☐ Main _____ References Only

Special Instructions:

☐ Restricted to Locality of _____☒ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)☐ Buildup☐ VariationsSubject FONZI, LEONOREBirthdate & Place 1909 U.S.Address deceasedLocalities MAY 12 1977

R# _____

Date 5-12

Searcher

Initials 315

Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

NK

MEMORANDUM

TO: [redacted] Special Agent
Office of Congressional Affairs
Federal Bureau of Investigations

FROM: Stephen J. Fallis, Deputy Chief Counsel
Select Committee on Assassinations
U. S. House of Representatives

for Robert C. Morrison

DATE: May 11, 1977

RE: Background Investigations

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding relative to the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducting background investigations for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, I am forwarding to the Bureau the completed background forms for the following members of the Staff of the Select Committee on Assassinations:

[redacted]
Gaeton J. Fonzi
[redacted]

AT 6

WFO
MM
NK

BA
AX
NY

PH
AT

SL

RE: 11/11
5-11-77

161-

12863

ENCLOSURE

SECURITY INVESTIGATION DATA
FOR SENSITIVE POSITION

CASE SERIAL NO. (CSC use only)

INSTRUCTIONS.—Prepare in triplicate, using a typewriter. Fill in all items. If the answer is "No" or "None," so state. If more space is needed for any item, continue under item 28.

1. FULL NAME (Initials and surnames of full name are not acceptable. If no middle name, show "NMNY"; if initials only, show "(no given or middle name)")	LAST NAME Fonzi	FIRST NAME Gaeton	MIDDLE NAME Joseph	2. DATE OF BIRTH 10 Oct. 1935
OTHER NAMES USED. (Maiden name, names by former marriages, former names changed legally or otherwise, aliases, nicknames, etc. Specify which, and show dates used) Fonzi, Gaetano Jr. -birth certificate, U.S. Army records, 1957-1972				3. PLACE OF BIRTH Philadelphia, Pa.
				4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
5. HEIGHT 6'1"		WEIGHT 178	COLOR EYES BN	COLOR HAIR BK

6. <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOW(ER) <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED	7. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED, GIVE FULL NAME AND DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH OF SPOUSE OR FORMER SPOUSE. INCLUDE WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME. GIVE DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE OR DIVORCE. (Give same information regarding all previous marriages and divorces.) Marie Jones Fonzi - 24 December 1936 - Philadelphia, Pa. married: 17 August, 1957 - Philadelphia, Pa.
--	---

8. DATES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE. (If actual places of residence differ from the mailing addresses, furnish and identify both. Begin with present and go back to January 1, 1937. Continue under item 28 on other side if necessary.)				
FROM	TO			
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY			
STATE				
October, 1972	present	7532 W. Treasure Dr.	N. Bay Village, Florida	MM
July, 1960	Oct. 1972	300 Magnolia Avenue	Somerdale, N.J.	NYK
July, 1959	July, 1960	E. 2nd Street	Media, Pa.	PN
April, 1958	July, 1959	5720 Thomas Avenue	Philadelphia, Pa.	1
Nov., 1957	April, 1958	U.S. Infantry School	Ft. Benning, Ga.	AT
August 1957	Nov., 1957	Penn Hill Apts.	Crum Lynne, Pa.	PN
Sept. 1953	August 1957	Univ. of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, Pa.	1
1935	Sept. 1953	6046 Park Avenue, West	New York, N.J.	NK

9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BY BIRTH <input type="checkbox"/> NATURALIZED	ALIEN REGISTRATION NO. n/a	DATE, PLACE, AND COURT Philadelphia, Pa.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. CITIZEN	CERT. NO. n/a	PETITION NO. n/a	
<input type="checkbox"/> ALIEN	REGISTRATION NO. n/a	NATIVE COUNTRY n/a	DATE AND PORT OF ENTRY n/a

10. EDUCATION. (All schools above elementary.)				
NAME OF SCHOOL	ADDRESS	FROM (Year)	TO (Year)	DEGREES
Memorial H.S.	West New York, N.J.	1949	1953	
Univ. of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	1953	1957	B.A. PH

11. THIS SPACE FOR FBI USE. (See also item 29.)	12. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 136-28-8924		
13. MILITARY SERVICE (Past or present)			
SERIAL NO. (If none, give grade or rating at separation)	BRANCH OF SERVICE (Army, Navy, Air Force, etc.)	FROM (Yr.)	TO (Yr.)
05-201-206 (Capt)	U.S. Army Res.	1957	1972

ENCLOSURE

SL/BA

14. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DISCHARGED FROM ARMED FORCES UNDER OTHER THAN HONORABLE CONDITIONS? ☐ YES ☒ NO.
(If answer is "Yes," give details in item 15.)

15. EMPLOYMENT. (List ALL employment dates starting with your present employment. Give both month and year for all dates. Show ALL dates and addresses when unemployed. Give name under which employed if different from name now used.)

FROM	TO	NAME OF EMPLOYER (Firm or agency) AND SUPERVISOR (Full name, if known)	ADDRESS (Where employed)	TYPE OF WORK	REASON FOR LEAVING
Jan. '77 pres.		U.S. House of Rep. Select Comm. on Assassinations		- Investigator	WFO
Nov. 75-Oct. 76.		Sen. R.S. Schweiker	Wash. D.C.	Investigator	Ass. term.
Feb 75-Nov. 75		Unemployed	Miami, Fla.	-	MM
Oct. 72-Feb. 75		Miami Magazine	Miami, Fla.	Editor	Pub. term.
Sept 59 Aug 72		Philadelphia Magazine (Ed: Alan Halpern)	Philadelphia, Pa.	Writer	New pos. PH
June 58-Sept 59		Chilton Co. (Ed: Don McNeill)	Philadelphia, Pa.	Editor	New pos.
June 57-Sept 57		DelCo Daily Times	Chester, Pa.	Reporter	military

16. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DISCHARGED (FIRED) FROM EMPLOYMENT FOR ANY REASON? ☐ YES ☒ NO.

17. HAVE YOU EVER RESIGNED (QUIT) AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT YOUR EMPLOYER INTENDED TO DISCHARGE (FIRE) YOU FOR ANY REASON? ☐ YES ☒ NO.
(If your answer to 16 or 17 above is "Yes" give details in item 28. Show the name and address of employer, approximate date, and reasons in each case. This information should agree with the statements made in item 15-EMPLOYMENT.)

18. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED, TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, HELD FOR INVESTIGATION OR QUESTIONING, OR CHARGED BY ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY?
(You may omit: (1) Traffic violations for which you paid a fine of \$30 or less; and (2) anything that happened before your 16th birthday. All other incidents must be included, even though they were dismissed or you merely forfeited collateral.) ☐ YES ☒ NO.

IF YOUR ANSWER IS "YES," GIVE FULL DETAILS BELOW:

DATE CHARGE PLACE

LAW ENFORCEMENT
AUTHORITY

ACTION TAKEN

19. HAVE YOU EVER HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN OR HAVE YOU EVER HAD MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR A MENTAL CONDITION? ☐ YES ☒ NO.
(If your answer is "Yes," give details in item 28.)

20. FOREIGN COUNTRIES VISITED (SINCE 1930). (Exclusive of military service.)

COUNTRY	DATE LEFT U.S.A.	DATE RETURNED U.S.A.	PURPOSE
<u>Denmark</u>	Sept. '68	Oct. '68	tourist
<u>Germany</u>			
<u>England</u>	Aug. '69	Sept 69	tourist

21. ARE YOU NOW, OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN, A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A., OR ANY COMMUNIST OR FASCIST ORGANIZATION? ☐ YES ☒ NO.

22. ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF ANY FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC ORGANIZATION, ASSOCIATION, MOVEMENT, GROUP, OR COMBINATION OF PERSONS WHICH IS TOTALITARIAN, FASCIST, COMMUNIST, OR SUBVERSIVE, OR WHICH HAS ADOPTED, OR SHOWS, A POLICY OF ADVOCATING OR APPROVING THE COMMISSION OF ACTS OF FORCE OR VIOLENCE TO DENY OTHER PERSONS THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, OR WHICH SEEKS TO ALTER THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY UNCONSTITUTIONAL MEANS? ☐ YES ☒ NO.

23. IF YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 21 OR 22 ABOVE IS "YES," STATE THE NAMES OF ALL SUCH ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, MOVEMENTS, GROUPS, OR COMBINATIONS OF PERSONS AND DATES OF MEMBERSHIP. IN ITEM 28 OR ON A SEPARATE SHEET TO BE ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THIS FORM, GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF YOUR ACTIVITIES THEREIN AND MAKE ANY EXPLANATION YOU DESIRE REGARDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR ACTIVITIES.

NAME IN FULL	ADDRESS	FROM	TO	OFFICE HELD
--------------	---------	------	----	-------------

None

24. MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. (List all organizations in which you are now a member or have been a member, except those which show religious or political affiliations.) (If none, so state.)

NAME IN FULL	ADDRESS	TYPE	FROM	TO	OFFICE HELD
U.S. Power Squadron	Miami Beach, Fla.	Educ.	1974	Present	none
Delta Upsilon Fraternity	Philadelphia	Soc.	1954	1957	none
Newspaper Guild	DelCo (pa.)	chapter Union	1957	1957	none

25. RELATIVES. (Parents, spouse, divorced spouse, children, brothers, and sisters, living or dead. Name of spouse should include maiden name and any other names by previous marriage. If person is dead, state "dead" after relationship and furnish information for other columns as of time of death.)

RELATION	NAME IN FULL	YEAR OF BIRTH	ADDRESS	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	PRESENT CITIZENSHIP
Father (dead)	Gaetano Fonzi	1900	-	Italy	U.S.
Mother (dead)	Leonore Fonzi	1909	-	U.S.	U.S.
			(same)	U.S.	U.S.
			(same)	U.S.	U.S.
			(same)	U.S.	U.S.
			(same)	U.S.	U.S.
			(same)	U.S.	U.S.

26a. REFERENCES. (Name three persons, not relatives or employers, who are aware of your qualifications and fitness.)

NAME IN FULL

HOME ADDRESS

BUSINESS ADDRESS

YEARS KNOWN

2
2
20

PH
WBU
PH

26b. CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATES. (Name three persons, such as friends, schoolmates or colleagues, who know you well)

NAME IN FULL

HOME ADDRESS

BUSINESS ADDRESS

YEARS KNOWN

4
30
10

MM
NY
PH

27. TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A FULL FIELD OR BACKGROUND PERSONAL INVESTIGATION BY ANY AGENCY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT? ☒ YES ☐ NO. (If your answer is "Yes," show in item 28, (1) the name of the investigating agency (2) the approximate date of investigation, and (3) the level of security clearance granted, if known.)

28. SPACE FOR CONTINUING ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS. (Show item numbers to which answers apply. Attach a separate sheet if there is not enough space here.)

Item 20: Other foreign countries visited as tourist: Austria (68), France ('69), Mexico ('71 & '72), Canada ('70).

Item 27: Commissioned USAR 1957, Security Clearance: Secret

29. REPORT OF INFORMATION DEVELOPED. (This space reserved for FBI use)

DATE:

Before signing this form check back over it to make sure you have answered all questions fully and correctly.

CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith.

False statement on this form
is punishable by law.

25 April 1977
(DATE)

(SIGNATURE) Sign original and first carbon copy

INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED BY AGENCY

INSTRUCTIONS TO AGENCY: See Federal Personnel Manual Chapter 736 and FPM Supplement 296-31, Appendix A, for details on when this form is required and how it is used. If this is a request for investigation before appointment, insert "APPL" in the space for Date of Appointment and show information about the proposed appointment in the other spaces for appointment data. The original and the first carbon copy should be signed by the applicant or appointee. Submit the original and the unsigned carbon copy of the form, Standard Form 87 (Fingerprint Chart), and any investigative information about the person received on voucher forms or otherwise, to the United States Civil Service Commission, Bureau of Personnel Investigations, Washington, D.C. 20415. If this is a request for full field security investigation, submit these forms to the attention of the Division of Reimbursable Investigations; if this is a request for preappointment national agency checks, submit these forms to the attention of the Control Section.

RETAIN THE CARBON COPY OF STANDARD FORM 86 (SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT OR APPOINTEE) FOR YOUR FILES

DATE OF APPOINTMENT	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT <input type="checkbox"/> EXCEPTED <input type="checkbox"/> COMPETITIVE. (Include indefinite and temporary types of competitive appointments)	CIVIL SERVICE REGULATION NUMBER OR OTHER APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY	TITLE OF POSITION AND GRADE OR SALARY
DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY	DUTY STATION	SEND RESULTS OF PREAPPOINTMENT CHECK TO:	
THIS IS A SENSITIVE POSITION			
(SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED AGENCY OFFICIAL)			

Dear Applicant:

In considering your (application for employment with, contractual agreement with, or performance of services for) the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSA), the Committee must make a determination as to your suitability for employment, your trustworthiness for clearance for access to classified information, or both. The HSA has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to conduct appropriate background investigations on prospective applicants and contractors. To assist the FBI in conducting its investigation of your background, please provide the HSA with the information required on the enclosed forms which will be provided to the FBI--

The principal use of this information will be to conduct an investigation, the results of which will be used to evaluate your suitability and trustworthiness for clearance for access to classified information. Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, if you decline to provide all or part of this information, we may be unable to consider your (application or contractual agreement). Willfully making a false statement or concealing a material fact may constitute a violation of Section 1001, Title 18 of the United States Code.

If you provide any information which indicates a violation of law, whether civil, criminal or regulatory in nature, or if such information is developed in the course of the background investigation, it will be referred to the appropriate Federal, state, local or foreign agency.

Information gathered shall be retained by the FBI in accord with the provisions of the FBI Records Retention Plan. However, information obtained during background investigations conducted pursuant to this agreement will not be disseminated outside the FBI except when necessary to fulfill obligations imposed by law, FBI regulation or presidential directive or executive order. When a request is received from a Federal agency for background information concerning a current employee or contractor of the HSA, if the individual concerned has given written consent authorizing the HSA to be notified, the FBI will notify the HSA of the request for background information, except where the

request concerns the individual's employment application to the agency requesting the background information. Notification by the FBI to the HSA will not extend to a criminal or national security investigation until it is determined that notification would not impede or compromise the investigation. The FBI investigation will include the collection and use of relevant information in the files of other Federal agencies.

If you consent to such an FBI investigation and the disclosure of relevant information by Federal agencies, and if you understand and accept the terms of this letter, please sign your name below and return the original of this letter to
A duplicate of this letter is enclosed for your files.

Sincerely,

Approved: _____

Signature

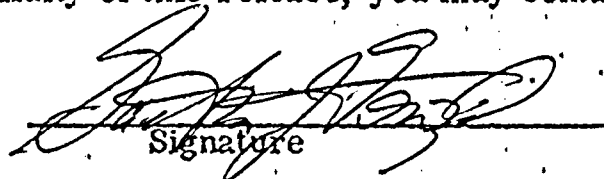
25 April 1977
Date

(12)
AUTHORITY TO RELEASE INFORMATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I hereby authorize any Special Agent or other authorized representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation bearing this release, or copy thereof, within one year of its date, to obtain any information in your files pertaining to my educational records including, but not limited to, academic, achievement, attendance, athletic, personal history, and disciplinary records; employment records; and credit records. I hereby direct you to release such information upon request of the bearer. This release is executed with full knowledge and understanding that the information is for the official use of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Consent is granted for the FBI to furnish such information, as is described above, to third parties in the course of fulfilling its official responsibilities. I hereby release you, as the custodian of such records, and any school, college, university, or other educational institution, credit bureau or consumer reporting agency, including its officers, employees, or related personnel, both individually and collectively, from any and all liability for damages of whatever kind, which may at any time result to me, my heirs, family or associates because of compliance with this authorization and request to release information, or any attempt to comply with it. Should there be any question as to the validity of this release, you may contact me as indicated below.

Full name:


Signature

Full name:

Gaeton Joseph Fonzi

Type or Print Name

Parent or Guardian
(If required)

Date:

25 April 1977

Current Address:

7532 W. Treasure Drive

North Bay Village, Florida 33141

Telephone Number:

305-861-7651

3
pe

PH0002 1382015Z

RR HQ MM

DE PH

R 182015Z MAY 77

FM PHILADELPHIA (161-2783) (SQ11) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

MIAMI ROUTINE

BT

LEAR

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI; SPIN-HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS;

BUDED MAY 26, 1977

RE BUREAU AIRTEL TO WFO, MIAMI, ET AL; MAY 11, 1977.

[REDACTED] "GOLD COAST PICTORIAL MAGAZINE"

SUNRISE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING, FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA., TELEPHONE NUMBER

5 63-4145, WORKED WITH FONZI AT THE "PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE", WAS

AFFILIATED WITH FONZI IN THE PUBLISHING OF A MAGAZINE IN MIAMI, AND

POSSIBLY WAS IN THE SAME ARMY RESERVE UNIT AS FONZI, AT CHESTER, PA.

MIAMI, INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

BT

1ccdgk

161-12863-2

NOT RECORDED

6 JUL 21 1977

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Fin. & Pers.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

Emp Sec&Spec
Inq Section
3823 JEH TL# 231

[Signature]

b6
b7c

[Signature]

[Signature]

F.405
70 AUG 24 1977

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 5/18/77

Assoc Dir _____
 Dep AD Adm _____
 Dep AD Inv _____
 Asst Dir _____
 Adm Serv _____
 Comm Serv _____
 Fin & Pers _____
 Ident _____
 Infil _____
 Lab _____
 Legal Coun _____
 Plan & Insp _____
 Rec. Mgmt _____
 Spec. Inv. _____
 Tech. Serv _____
 Training _____
 Public Affs. Off _____
 Telephone Rm _____
 Director's Sec'y _____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM: SAC, ALEXANDRIA (161-4692) -RUC-
 GAETON JOSEPH FONZI
 SPECIAL INQUIRY
 HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
 BUDED: 5/26/77

Re Bureau airtel to WFO, 5/11/77.

SC [redacted] caused a search to be made of the files of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Langley, Virginia, and was advised on 5/17/77 that the files contained no pertinent identifiable information concerning the appointee or [redacted]

161-12863-3

NOT RECORDED
 6 JUL 21 1977

① - Bureau
 1 - Alexandria
 SW:sw
 (2)

Approved: 165 K/50
 70 AUG 24 1977

Transmitted _____
 (Number) (Time)

Per _____

AT0228 1392037

00 HI
DE AT

MAY 19 4 44 PM '77

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

O 192037Z MAY 77

FM ATLANTA (161-1284) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

BT

E F T O

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI; SPECIAL INQUIRY; HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS; BUDED MAY 26, 1977.

RE BUREAU AIRTEL DATED MAY 11, 1977.

THE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED IN COLUMBUS,
GEORGIA, ON MAY 16, 1977, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

CREDIT:

JAMES JORDAN, RECORDS SECTION, MERCHANTS CREDIT ASSOCIATION,
703 20TH, ADVISED THAT AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR RECORDS FAILED
TO REVEAL ANY CREDIT RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH GAETON JOSEPH
FONZI.

IDENTIFICATION:

EMILY MURK, RECORDS SECTION, COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT,
ADVISED THAT AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR RECORDS FAILED TO REVEAL

NOT RECORDED
6 JUL 21 1977

DEP

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Exp. Sec. & Spec.
Inq. Section
3825 JEH TL# 231

161-12863-4

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G. Dwyer

PAGE TWO AT (161-1284) E F T O

ANY IDENTIFICATION RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH GAETON JOSEPH FONZI OR HIS SPOUSE.

MAXINE SHERMAN, RECORDS SECTION, MUSCOGEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, ADVISED THAT AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR RECORDS FAILED TO REVEAL ANY IDENTIFICATION RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH GAETON JOSEPH FONZI OR HIS SPOUSE.

SERGEANT FRANK THOMAS, RECORDS SECTION, PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE, FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, ADVISED THAT AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR RECORDS FAILED TO REVEAL ANY IDENTIFICATION RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH GAETON JOSEPH FONZI OR HIS SPOUSE.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

ALL PERSONS CONTACTED WERE ADVISED OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVACY ACT, AND NONE REQUESTED ANY CONFIDENTIALITY.

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FM NEWARK (161-2694) (RUC)
TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)
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GAETON JOSEPH FONZI; SPIN; HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINA-
TIONS; BUDED 5/26/77

RE: BUREAU AIRTEL TO WFO, 5/11/77.

PM

NEIGHBORHOOD: ON MAY 19, 1977, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED SHE WAS SLIGHTLY ACQUAINT-
ED WITH APPOINTEE WHEN HE RESIDED AT 300 MAGNOLIA AVE. SHE HAD
SOCIAL CONTACT WITH APPOINTEE'S WIFE AND THROUGH THIS CONTACT WAS
ACQUAINTED WITH APPOINTEE. HE IS A GOOD PERSON AND IS STABLE,
RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY FAMILY MAN. HE WAS A WRITER BY PROFESSION,
AND SHE FEELS HIS CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES AND LOYALTY
ARE EXCELLENT. SHE HIGHLY RECOMMENDS FOR A POSITION OF TRUST AND
CONFIDENCE.

161-12863-5

NOT RECORDED
JUL 21 1977

ON THE SAME DATE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED SHE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH APPOINTEE AND HIS
FAMILY THE ENTIRE 12 YEARS THEY LIVED AT 300 MAGNOLIA AVE., UNTIL
THEY MOVED TO FLORIDA IN OCTOBER, 1972. HE WAS A GOOD NEIGHBOR

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PAGE TWO NK 161-2694 CLEAR

A GOOD FAMILY MAN, RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY AND HONEST. HE HAD MODERATE HABITS AND HIS CHARACTER, REPUTATION AND ASSOCIATES ARE EXCELLENT. HE IS A LOYAL AMERICAN AND SHE WOULD RECOMMEND HIM FOR A POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE. SHE KNEW OF NO ONE ELSE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHO WOULD KNOW APPOINTEE.

ARREST: ON MAY 17, 1977, MRS. MILDRED DANIEL, RECORDS CLERK, WEST NEW YORK, NJPD, ADVISED SHE HAD NO RECORD FOR APPOINTEE.

ON MAY 18, 1977, ROBERT LAWSON, CHIEF, SOMERDALE, NJPD, ADVISED HE HAD NO RECORD FOR APPOINTEE.

CREDIT: ON MAY 17, 1977, RICHARD R. NEUSCHELER, CERTIFIED CREDIT REPORTS OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY, INC., ORANGE, NJ, WHICH COVERS THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ADVISED HE HAD NO RECORD FOR APPOINTEE.

ON MAY 18, 1977, BERNIE BECKER, OPERATIONS MANAGER, CREDIT BUREAU ASSOCIATES, CAMDEN, NJ, WHICH COVERS SOMERDALE, NJ, ADVISED THAT THE CREDIT PROFILE FOR GAETON JOSEPH FONZI INDICATES NO RECORD OF LITIGATION. REVOLVING CHARGE ACCOUNTS ARE IN A SATISFACTORY STATUS.

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FM ST. LOUIS (161-IPRC-M)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

SCLEAR

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, AKA, SPI. BUDED: MAY 26, 1977.

REBUAIRTEL TO WASHINGTON FIELD, MAY 11, 1977, AND ST. LOUIS
TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MAY 23, 1977.

ON MAY 20, 1977, REVIEW BY SC [REDACTED] OF RECORDS
AT NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER, MILITARY BRANCH, ST. LOUIS,
MO., DISCLOSED CAPTIONED INDIVIDUAL, AS GAETANO FONZI, JR., SERIAL
NUMBER: 05 201 206, ACCEPTED APPOINTMENT AS SECOND LIEUTENANT IN
U.S. ARMY RESERVE JUNE 12, 1957, AT PHILADELPHIA, PA. SERVED RE-
SERVE STATUS WITH ARMY RESERVE UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 1957, WHEN
ENTERED ON EXTENDED ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING WITH ARMY AT WEST
YORK, N.J. WAS HONORABLY RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY MAY 29, 1958,
AS SECOND LIEUTENANT AT FORT DIX, N.J., DUE TO COMPLETION OF TOUR
OF EXTENDED ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING, REVERTED TO CONTROL OF ARMY

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RESERVE. THEN SERVED RESERVE STATUS WITH ARMY RESERVE (WITH ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING AUGUST 22, 1959 TO SEPTEMBER 5, 1959, AUGUST 13, 1960 TO AUGUST 27, 1960, JULY 22, 1961 TO AUGUST 5, 1961, MAY 13, 1962 TO MAY 26, 1962, JUNE 15, 1963 TO JUNE 29, 1963, JUNE PWUN 1964 TO JULY 11, 1964, AND JULY 31, 1965 TO AUGUST 14, 1965), AND WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED APRIL 30, 1972, AS CAPTAIN (HIGHEST RANK ATTAINED) AT SOMERDALE, N.J., BY REASON OF RESIGNATION.

PERFORMED NO FOREIGN SERVICE DURING TOUR OF EXTENDED ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING WITH ARMY. RECEIVED SHARPSHOOTER BADGE WITH CARBINE, PISTOL AND RIFLE BARS. NO COURT-MARTIAL OR UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCE REPORTED, AND PERFORMANCE RATED AS RANGING FROM "ACCEPTABLE" TO "SUPERIOR". WAS GRANTED FINAL-TYPE RJIWPOO SECURITY CLEARANCE BY ARMY MAY 14, 1965, WHICH TERMINATED UPON HIS DISCHARGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REGULATIONS.

REGARDING SPELLING OF NAME, FONZI SET FORTH FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN HIS SERVICE RECORD: "NAME ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS GAETANO FONZI, JR. BUT ALL RECORDS INCLUDING SCHOOL, SOCIAL SECURITY AND DRIVER'S LICENSE ARE GAETON J. (JOSEPH) FONZI OR GAETON FONZI".

FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PRIOR EMPLOYMENT INDICATED IN THE SERVICE RECORD: JUNE, 1955 TO AUGUST, 1955 - U.S. RUBBER COMPANY, 5TH AND

PAGE THREE SL 161-NPRC-M CLEAR

LOCUST, PHILADELPHIA, PA., POSITION NOT SHOWN, SUPERVISOR IDENTIFIED
ONLY AS

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ADDITIONAL PRIOR ADDRESS ALSO INDICATED, AS FOLLOWS: DECEMBER,
1954 TO FEBRUARY, 1955 - 7911 HUDSON AVENUE, NORTH BERGEN, N.J.

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH SHOWN AS OCTOBER 10, 1935, AT PHILA-
DELPHIA, PA.

UACB, NO REPORT BEING SUBMITTED BY ST. LOUIS.

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OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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FM ST. LOUIS (161-NPRC-M) P

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

ALEXANDRIA ROUTINE

ATLANTA ROUTINE

BALTIMORE ROUTINE

MIAMI ROUTINE

NEW YORK ROUTINE

NEWARK ROUTINE

PHILADELPHIA ROUTINE

WASHINGTON FIELD ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

"CHANGED", GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, AKA GAETANO FONZI, JR., SPI. BUDED:
MAY 26, 1977.

TITLE MARKED "CHANGED" TO INCLUDE NAME GAETANO FONZI, JR., AS
SHOWN ON CURRENT SF-86 AND IN RECORDS AT NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS
CENTER, MILITARY BRANCH (NPRC-M), ST. LOUIS, MO.

NOT RECORDED
6 JUL 21 1977

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PAGE TWO SL 161-NPRC-M CLEAR

REBUAIRTEL TO WASHINGTON FIELD, MAY 11, 1977.

ADDITIONAL PRIOR ADDRESS INDICATED IN FONZI'S MILITARY RECORD AT NPRC-M, AS FOLLOWS: DECEMBER, 1954 TO FEBRUARY, 1955 - 7911 HUDSON AVENUE, NORTH BERGEN, N.J.

FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PRIOR EMPLOYMENT ALSO INDICATED: JUNE, 1955 TO AUGUST, 1955 - U.S. RUBBER COMPANY, FIFTH AND LOCUST, PHILADELPHIA, PA., POSITION NOT SHOWN, SUPERVISOR IDENTIFIED ONLY AS

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NEWARK DIVISION, AT NORTH BERGEN, N.J., CONDUCT CREDIT AND ARREST CHECKS REGARDING FONZI.

PHILADELPHIA DIVISION, AT PHILADELPHIA, CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION REGARDING INDICATED ADDITIONAL PRIOR EMPLOYMENT.

ALL OFFICES NOTE TITLE CHANGE.

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PHILADELPHIA (161-2783) (SQ)

TO

DIRECTOR ROUTINE

NEW HAVEN ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, AKA GAETANO FONZI, JR.; SPIN; HOUSE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS; BUDED MAY 26, 1977

RE SAINT LOUIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, ET AL, MAY 23, 1977.

FONZI, WHO IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR STAFF POSITION, WAS BORN
OCTOBER 10, 1935, AT PHILADELPHIA, PA., AND HAS SOCIAL SECURITY
ACCOUNT NUMBER 136-28-8924.

RECORDS, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER, MILITARY BRANCH,
SAINT LOUIS, REFLECTS PRIOR EMPLOYMENT FOR FONZI OF JUNE 1955 TO
AUGUST 1955, WITH U.S. RUBBER COMPANY, FIFTH AND LOCUST STREETS,
PHILADELPHIA, PA. POSITION NOT SHOWN. SUPERVISOR IDENTIFIED ONLY
AS

ON MAY 24, 1977, MRS. HELEN STORZ, PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT,

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PAGE TWO, PH 161-27 CLEAR

MASLAND DURALEATHER, PHILADELPHIA, PA., A DIVISION OF UNIROYAL, INC., WHICH WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS U.S. RUBBER, ADVISED SHE HAD NO EMPLOYMENT RECORD FOR FONZI BUT THOUGHT THAT NATIONAL OFFICE OF UNIROYAL, INC., AT MIDDLEBURY, CONN., TELEPHONE NUMBER 573-2000, MAY HAVE HIS EMPLOYMENT RECORD.

NEW HAVEN AT MIDDLEBURY, CONN.: ATTEMPT TO VERIFY EMPLOYMENT.

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 COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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FM ST. LOUIS (161-NPRC-M) P

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

ALEXANDRIA ROUTINE

ATLANTA ROUTINE

BALTIMORE ROUTINE

MIAMI ROUTINE

NEW YORK ROUTINE

NEWARK ROUTINE

PHILADELPHIA ROUTINE

WASHINGTON FIELD ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

"CHANGED", GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, AKA GAETANO FONZI, JR., SPI. BUDED:
 MAY 26, 1977.

161-12863-10

TITLE MARKED "CHANGED" TO INCLUDE NAME GAETANO FONZI, JR. PASORDED
 SHOWN ON CURRENT SF-86 AND IN RECORDS AT NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS
 CENTER, MILITARY BRANCH (NPRC-M), ST. LOUIS, MO.

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PAGE TWO SL 161-NPRC-M CLEAR

REBUAIRTEL TO WASHINGTON FIELD, MAY 11, 1977.

ADDITIONAL PRIOR ADDRESS INDICATED IN FONZI'S MILITARY RECORD
AT NPRC-M, AS FOLLOWS: DECEMBER, 1954 TO FEBRUARY, 1955 - 7911 HUD-
SON AVENUE, NORTH BERGEN, N.J.

FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PRIOR EMPLOYMENT ALSO INDICATED: JUNE,
1955 TO AUGUST, 1955 - U.S. RUBBER COMPANY, FIFTH AND LOCUST,
PHILADELPHIA, PA., POSITION NOT SHOWN, SUPERVISOR IDENTIFIED ONLY
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NEWARK DIVISION, AT NORTH BERGEN, N.J., CONDUCT CREDIT AND
ARREST CHECKS REGARDING FONZI.

PHILADELPHIA DIVISION, AT PHILADELPHIA, CONDUCT APPROPRIATE
INVESTIGATION REGARDING INDICATED ADDITIONAL PRIOR EMPLOYMENT.

ALL OFFICES NOTE TITLE CHANGE.

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FM NEW ROCHELLE (NR 161-5672)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

C L E A R

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, SPECIAL INQUIRY, HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS, BUDED MAY 16, 1977

REBUREAUAIRTEL, MAY 11, 1977.

ON MAY 24, 1977, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], ADVISED HAS KNOWN APPOINTEE
THIRTY YEARS, HAVING GROWN UP TOGETHER IN PENNSYLVANIA.
STILL SEES FROM TIME TO TIME ON SOCIAL BASIS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DESCRIBED APPOINTEE AS
HARDWORKING, DEDICATED, PERSONABLE, EXCELLENT CHARACTER AND
REPUTATION. LOYALTY TO UNITED STATES IS BEYOND QUESTION

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NOT RECORDED
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AND RECOMMENDED HIGHLY.

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FM PHILADELPHIA (161-2783) (SQ 11)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

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CLEAR

SECTION 1 OF 2

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, AKA; SPIN; HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

RE BUREAU AIRTEL TO WFO, MAY 11, 1977.

INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] AND RECORD CHECK AT THE CHESTER, PA., POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS CONDUCTED BY SA [REDACTED] INVESTIGATION AT DELAWARE COUNTY WAS CONDUCTED BY SA [REDACTED] RECORD CHECK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THE PHILADELPHIA, PA., POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS CONDUCTED BY SC [REDACTED] RECORD CHECK AT THE PHILADELPHIA CREDIT BUREAU WAS CONDUCTED BY SC [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] REMAINDER OF INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED BY SA [REDACTED]

EDUCATION:

ON MAY 19, 1977, MRS. MARY MAC DONALD, SECRETARY, REGISTRAR'S

MAY 25 8 13 PM '77

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OF INVESTIGATION
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OFFICE, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, FRANKLIN BUILDING, 3451 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA., FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM HER RECORDS REGARDING THE APPOINTEE:

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 10, 1935, AT PHILADELPHIA, PA., AND ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA FROM SEPTEMBER 1953 UNTIL MAY 12, 1957, WHEN HE WAS GRADUATED WITH A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN JOURNALISM. NO CUMULATIVE GRADE-POINT AVERAGE OR RANK IN CLASS MAINTAINED. NOTHING UNFAVORABLE WAS CONTAINED IN THE RECORDS.

MRS. MAC DONALD ADVISED THAT BECAUSE OF THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT HAD PASSED SINCE APPOINTEE ATTENDED SCHOOL, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE NAMES OF INSTRUCTORS WHO WOULD REMEMBER HIM.

EMPLOYMENT:

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.: ON MAY 17, 1977, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE FIRST MET THE APPOINTEE WHEN THE APPOINTEE WAS EMPLOYED AT THE PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE IN PHILADELPHIA, PA. [REDACTED] STRESSED HE HAD CONTACT WITH THE APPOINTEE BEFORE HE HIRED THE APPOINTEE AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

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AGE THREE, PH 11-2783, CLEAR

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS. [] DESCRIBES HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE APPOINTEE AS A PROFESSIONAL ONE WITH LIMITED SOCIAL CONTACT. [] STATED HE HAS HAD TELEPHONIC CONTACT PERIODICALLY WITH THE APPOINTEE SINCE [] LEFT THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE COMMITTEE.

[] DESCRIBED THE APPOINTEE AS AN EXCELLENT INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER WHO CURRENTLY WAS LIVING AND WORKING IN FLORIDA. [] STATED THAT THE APPOINTEE WAS EMPLOYED TO WORK AS AN INVESTIGATOR FOR THE COMMITTEE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE APPOINTEE COULD CONTINUE LIVING IN FLORIDA AND NOT MOVE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

[] ADVISED THAT HE WAS HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH THE ETHICAL STANDARDS AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES OF THE APPOINTEE. [] STATED THAT THE APPOINTEE WAS PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED BY THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE AS AN INVESTIGATOR AND THEN LATER AS A MEMBER OF SENATOR RICHARD SCHWEIKER'S STAFF IN THE U.S. SENATE AS AN INVESTIGATOR. [] STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO REHIRE THE APPOINTEE AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE.

[] STATED HE HAD NO REASON TO DOUBT THE APPOINTEE'S CHARACTER, REPUTATION, OR LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES. [] ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF THE APPOINTEE.

PAGE FOUR, PH 11-2783, CLEAR

[] STATED HE RECOMMENDED THE APPOINTEE FOR A POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE, 1500 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.:

ON MAY 18, 1977, [], FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION. GAETON JOSEPH FONZI WAS EMPLOYED BY PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 1959, TO AUGUST 11, 1972, WHEN HE LEFT TO RELOCATE FOR NEW EMPLOYMENT IN THE MIAMI, FLA., AREA. FONZI AND HIS WIFE WERE GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA WHEN [] HIRED FONZI, FONZI WAS EMPLOYED AT THE CHILTON PUBLISHING COMPANY IN PHILADELPHIA. FONZI WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY MANAGEMENT AND CO-WORKERS AND WAS STRAIGHT FORWARD, DEDICATED, HONEST, INDUSTRIOUS, AND COMPLETELY LOYAL TO THE UNITED STATES. WHILE FONZI WAS EMPLOYED AT THE PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE, HE WAS IN THE ARMY RESERVE AND SERVED IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN A RESERVE UNIT IN CHESTER, PA. FONZI WAS AN ALL AROUND TERRIFIC GUY AND [] STATED HE WOULD REHIRE HIM AT ANY TIME. HE RECOMMENDED HIM VERY HIGHLY FOR A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT POSITION. [] ALSO ADVISED THAT HE IS ACQUAINTED WITH FONZI'S WIFE WHO WAS A SCHOOL TEACHER IN NEW JERSEY AND HIGHLY RESPECTED.

ON MAY 18, 1977, [] ADVISED THAT HE

PAGE FIVE, PH 161-2783, CLEAR

HAS KNOWN FONZI SINCE 1959, WHEN FONZI CAME TO WORK FOR THE PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE. HE DESCRIBED HIM AS A LOYAL EMPLOYEE, A FABULOUS WRITER, A MARVELOUS WORKER, AND A PERSON OF GREAT INTEGRITY. HE STATED THAT HE WAS A COMPLETELY LOYAL AMERICAN AND HE COULD NOT RECOMMEND HIM TOO HIGHLY FOR ANY CONFIDENTIAL RESPONSIBLE POSITION.

ON MAY 18, 1977, [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE HAS KNOWN FONZI SINCE 1969, AND CONSIDERS HIM TO HAVE BEEN THE BEST WRITER ON THE STAFF. HE COMMENTED VERY FAVORABLY ON HIS CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES, AND LOYALTY, DESCRIBING HIM AS A TENACIOUS, OBJECTIVE, STRAIGHT, SINCERE INVESTIGATOR AND WRITER. HE STATED THAT FONZI WAS LOADED WITH CHARACTER AND IS HIGHLY REGARDED IN HIS PROFESSION. HE STATED HE WOULD RECOMMEND HIM ABSOLUTELY FOR ANY CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION.

ON MAY 18, 1977, [REDACTED] ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN FONZI SINCE APRIL 1969, AND CONSIDERS HIM TO BE ONE OF THE FINEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS IN THE BUSINESS. HE STATED FONZI WAS FRIENDLY, INDUSTRIOUS, AND RELIABLE. HE WAS NEVER KNOWN TO LEAK ANY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OR VIOLATE ANY CONFIDENCES. [REDACTED] COMMENTED VERY FAVORABLY UPON HIS CHARACTER,

PAGE SIX, PH 11-2783, EAR

REPUTATION, LOYALTY AND ASSOCIATES AND STATED HE WOULD RECOMMEND FONZI HIGHLY FOR ANY CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION.

ON MAY 19, 1977, [REDACTED] ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN FONZI SINCE 1969, POINTING OUT FONZI WAS IN INVESTIGATION AND WRITING WHICH WAS A DIFFERENT DEPARTMENT THAN HIS, CONSEQUENTLY HE HAD ONLY LIMITED CONTACT AT WORK WITH FONZI AND ONLY SAW HIM SOCIALLY ON A FEW OCCASIONS. [REDACTED] STATED HE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING WHICH WOULD REFLECT UNFAVORABLY ON FONZI'S CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES OR LOYALTY. IN HIS OPINION, FONZI HAD A LOT OF INTEGRITY AND WAS A COURAGEOUS, INDUSTRIOUS, OBJECTIVE AND HONEST REPORTER. HE STATED HE WOULD RECOMMEND HIM FOR A CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION.

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AT RADNOR INDUSTRIAL PARK, RADNOR, PA., CHILTON COMPANY:
ON MAY 19, 1977, MRS. ALICE O'NEILL, ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT TO THE PERSONNEL DIRECTOR, ADVISED THAT THEY HAVE NO RECORDS BEYOND 1970 AND THEREFORE, WAS UNABLE TO VERIFY THE EMPLOYMENT OF GAETON JOSEPH FONZI.

AT DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES", CHESTER, PA.: ON MAY 19, 1977, MISS DEBBIE BARTSCH, ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANGER, "DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES", ADVISED THAT THEY HAVE NO RECORDS BEYOND 1960, AND,

PAGE SEVEN, PH 11-2783, CLEAR

THEREFORE WAS UNABLE TO VERIFY EMPLOYMENT OF GAETON JOSEPH FONZI.

ON MAY 25, 1977, [REDACTED] EMERITUS JEWELERS
CIRCULAR KEYSTONE, A PUBLICATION OF CHILTON COMPANY, RADNOR,
PA., ADVISED THAT HE HIRED APPOINTEE IN APPROXIMATELY JUNE,
1958 AFTER APPOINTEE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE HEAD OF THE
JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

[REDACTED] WAS IMPRESSED WITH APPOINTEE'S ABILITY IN THE JOURNALISM
FIELD. APPOINTEE DISPLAYED AN EXCEPTIONAL WRITING STYLE AND
IS A RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL IN HIS PROFESSION. [REDACTED] HAD
LIMITED SOCIAL CONTACT WITH APPOINTEE BUT HE KNOWS THAT APPOINTEE
WAS MARRIED AND HAD A CHILD. APPOINTEE HAD A GOOD CHARACTER AND
ASSOCIATED WITH REPUTABLE INDIVIDUALS. HE ENJOYED A GOOD REPUTATION
AND IS LOYAL TO THE UNITED STATES. APPOINTEE LEFT CHILTON COMPANY
IN APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER, 1959 AND BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH THE
PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE. [REDACTED] RECOMMENDED APPOINTEE FAVORABLY
FOR A POSITION WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

REFERENCES:

ON MAY 18, 1977, [REDACTED] OF THE PHILADELPHIA
DAILY NEWS, PHILADELPHIA, PA., ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN FONZI SINCE
FONZI AND HE WERE REPORTERS IN CHESTER, PA., TWENTY YEARS AGO. AT
BT

PAGE EIGHT, PH 11-2783, CLEAR

THAT TIME, FONZI WAS EMPLOYED AT THE DELAWARE COUNTY TIMES. LATER, FONZI WENT TO WORK FOR THE CHILTON COMPANY AND THEN FOR THE PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE. HE STATED HE CONSIDERS FONZI TO BE AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN AND THE BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER IN THE COUNTRY. HE COMMENTED VERY FAVORABLY ON FONZI'S CHARACTER, ASSOCIATES, REPUTATION AND LOYALTY, STATING THAT FONZI WAS ABSOLUTELY HONEST AND HAD AS MUCH INTEGRITY AS ANYONE HE HAS EVER MET. HE STATED FONZI WAS ANTI-CORRUPTION, WAS VERY OBJECTIVE IN HIS REPORTING AND NEVER TOOK A CHEAP SHOT AT ANYONE. [] SAID THAT HE ALMOST BEGGED FONZI TO COME TO WORK FOR HIM AT THE DAILY NEWS. [] STATED THAT HE WOULD GIVE FONZI AN UNQUALIFIED RECOMMENDATION FOR A RESPONSIBLE CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION.

ON MAY 19, 1977, []

[] ADVISED HE FIRST MET FONZI IN 1975, WHEN [] WAS THE [] AND FONZI WAS A FREE LANCE INVESTIGATOR FOR THE SCHWEIKER COMMITTEE. [] STATED HE HAS ONLY BEEN IN FONZI'S COMPANY A FEW TIMES BUT REGULARLY SPENT HOURS AT A TIME TRANSACTING BUSINESS WITH FONZI OVER THE TELEPHONE. [] STATED HE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO NEGATIVE FEELINGS ABOUT FONZI AND HE COMMENTED

PAGE NINE, PH 11-2783, CLEAR

VERY FAVORABLY ON HIS CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES, AND LOYALTY. HE STATED FONZI WAS AN UNBELIEVABLE, TOUGH, HARD WORKING INVESTIGATOR AND HE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND HIM FOR A CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION. HE ADDED THAT IF HE, [REDACTED] WAS DOING THE HIRING OF AN INVESTIGATOR, FONZI WOULD BE THE FIRST MAN HE WOULD PICK.

ASSOCIATES:

ON MAY 19, 1977, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], ADVISED

HE FIRST MET THE APPOINTEE WHEN FONZI BECAME AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER FOR THE "PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE" IN THE LATE 1950'S AND HE, [REDACTED] WAS [REDACTED] IN PHILADELPHIA. HE STATED THAT THROUGH THE YEARS HE HAD MANY CONTACTS WITH FONZI. [REDACTED] COMMENTED VERY FAVORABLY ON FONZI'S CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES, AND LOYALTY, CHARACTERIZING FONZI AS A TRUSTWORTHY, DISCREET, RESPONSIBLE, TOP INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER, WHO WAS A "STRAIGHT SHOOTER" ALL THE WAY. HE STATED FONZI ALWAYS RETAINED CONFIDENTIALITY AND HE WOULD RECOMMEND HIM FOR A CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION.

CREDIT AND ARREST:

AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.: ON MAY 18, 1977, NO CREDIT RECORD WAS LOCATED FOR FONZI IN THE FILES OF THE PHILADELPHIA CREDIT BUREAU

PAGE TEN, PH 11-2783, CLEAR

WHICH COVERS PHILADELPHIA AND DELAWARE COUNTIES, PA.

ON MAY 23, 1977, NO ARREST RECORD WAS LOCATED FOR FONZI IN THE FILES OF THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ON MAY 24, 1977, ANNA MAE TROUT, RECORD SECTION, CHESTER, PA., POLICE DEPARTMENT, ADVISED THAT HER FILES DID NOT CONTAIN ANY REFERENCE CONCERNING GAETON JOSEPH FONZI.

AT MEDIA, PA.: ON MAY 17, 1977, HANK MC CARNEY, PATROLMAN, MEDIA, PA., POLICE DEPARTMENT, ADVISED HE COULD FIND NO RECORD IN THE FILES OF THAT DEPARTMENT FOR GAETON JOSEPH FONZI NOR FOR [REDACTED]

AT RIDLEY TOWNSHIP, PA.: ON MAY 17, 1977, SERGEANT RAYMOND A. MC CAFFERY, ADVISED THAT HE COULD FIND NO RECORD IN THE FILES OF THAT DEPARTMENT WHICH COVERS CRUMLYNNE, PA., FOR GAETON JOSEPH FONZI AND [REDACTED]

MISCELLANEOUS:

ON MAY 20, 1977, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ADVISED THAT HE IS ACQUAINTED WITH GAETON JOSEPH FONZI WHEN HE SERVED WITH FONZI IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE, CHESTER, PA., AS A PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER.

PAGE ELEVEN, PH 11-2783, CEAR

[] STATED THAT FONZI HAD A VERY GOOD CHARACTER AND ALL OF FONZI'S ASSOCIATES IN THE ARMY WERE OF EXCELLENT CHARACTER. [] STATED THAT FONZI WAS A WRITER FOR "THE PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE" WHEN HE KNEW HIM, AND HE WAS A VERY THOUGHT PROVOKING WRITER WITH A VERY GOOD REPUTATION. [] STATED THAT HE WAS DEFINITELY A LOYAL AMERICAN AND WOULD RECOMMEND HIM FOR ANY POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE. [] STATED THAT HE FELT THAT FONZI COULD DO A VERY COMMENDABLE JOB IN ANY TYPE OF INVESTIGATORY FIELD.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

ALL PERSONS CONTACTED WERE ADVISED OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974, AND NONE REQUESTED CONFIDENTIALITY.

BT

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RR HQ

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R 252217Z MAY 77

FM NEWARK (161-2694) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

BT

CLEAR

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, AKA; SPIN; BUDED 5/26/77

RE: NEWARK TEL TO BUREAU, 5/23/77. ST. LOUIS TEL TO
BUREAU, 5/23/77.

ON MAY 25, 1977, LT. JOHN INGLESE, NORTH BERGEN, NJPD,
ADVISED HE HAD NO RECORD FOR APPOINTEE.

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161-12863-13

NOT RECORDED

G JUN 21 1977

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Assoc. Dir.	_____
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Director's Sec'y.	_____

Exp. Sec. Spec.
Inv. Section
3823 JUN 21 1977

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FM MIAMI (161-1480) RUC

TO DIRECTOR (161-1480) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, AKA, SPIN, HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS, BUDED: MAY 26, 1977.

RE BUREAU AIRTEL TO WASHINGTON FIELD, MAY 11, 1977.

ON MAY 24, 1977, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED SHE HAS RESIDED

[REDACTED] FROM THE APPOINTEE AND HIS FAMILY FOR
APPROXIMATELY FIVE YEARS AND DESCRIBED THEM AS GOOD NEIGHBORS
WHO ENJOY A GOOD REPUTATION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THEY ARE A
CLOSE FAMILY AND SHE KNOWS OF NOTHING WHICH WOULD REFLECT
UNFAVORABLY ON THE APPOINTEE'S LOYALTY OR ASSOCIATES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WOULD RECOMMEND THE APPOINTEE FOR A POSITION OF TRUST
AND CONFIDENCE WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

ON MAY 24, 1977, [REDACTED]

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Fin. & Pers.	_____
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Director's Sec'y	_____

Exp. Sec. 3823 JEH 11-231

NOT RECORDED
6 JUL 21 1977

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G. R. [Signature]

70 AUG 24 1977
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PAGE TWO MM 161-1480 CLEAR

[REDACTED] ADVISED SHE HAS LIVED IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD AS THE APPOINTEE FOR FIVE YEARS AND DESCRIBED THE APPOINTEE AND HIS FAMILY AS VERY GOOD PEOPLE WHO IN HER OPINION ARE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER. SHE SAID THEY ARE EXCELLENT NEIGHBORS AND SHE KNOWS OF NOTHING UNFAVORABLE CONCERNING APPOINTEE'S ASSOCIATES OR LOYALTY. SHE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RECOMMEND HIM FOR A POSITION OF TRUST WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

ON MAY 24, 1977, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED SHE HAS RESIDED [REDACTED] THE APPOINTEE SINCE 1972, AND HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE GOOD NEIGHBORS AND HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. SHE KNOWS OF NOTHING WHICH WOULD REFLECT UNFAVORABLY ON THE APPOINTEE'S CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES OR LOYALTY, AND WOULD RECOMMEND HIM FOR A POSITION OF TRUST WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

ON MAY 24, 1977, [REDACTED]

"MIAMI MAGAZINE", ADVISED THEY HAVE NO RECORDS REGARDING THE APPOINTEE'S EMPLOYMENT. HE EXPLAINED HE KNOWS THE APPOINTEE SLIGHTLY AND SAID THE APPOINTEE AND OTHERS STARTED AT "MIAMI

PAGE THREE MM 161-1480 CLEAR

MAGAZINE" IN 1972, AND LEFT WHEN IT WAS SOLD IN 1975. NO ONE PRESENTLY EMPLOYED WHO WOULD REMEMBER THE APPLICANT. [REDACTED] DOES KNOW THE APPLICANT IS A FINE WRITER AND DID A GOOD JOB FOR THE "MIAMI MAGAZINE".

ON MAY 23, 1977, [REDACTED] OF "GOLD COAST PICTORIAL MAGAZINE", SUNRISE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING, FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, ADVISED HAS BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH APPOINTEE FOR THE PAST 16 YEARS. HE WAS IN THE SAME ARMY RESERVE UNIT WITH APPOINTEE AT CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA. HE ALSO WORKED WITH APPOINTEE AT THE "PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE". APPOINTEE WAS THE SENIOR EDITOR OF THE LATTER MAGAZINE PRIOR TO HIS LEAVING. THE MAGAZINE ITSELF WAS A GENERAL INTEREST TYPE MAGAZINE COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS AND ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY PERTAINING TO THE PHILADELPHIA AREA. APPOINTEE CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIVE TYPE WORK AT THE MAGAZINE TO COMPLETE HIS ASSIGNMENTS WITH THAT MAGAZINE.

APPOINTEE WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY HIS PEERS IN THE JOURNALISM FIELD AT PHILADELPHIA.

APPOINTEE SUBSEQUENTLY CAME TO MIAMI FLORIDA AND WAS EDITOR OF THE "MIAMI MAGAZINE" FROM 1972 INTO 1975. THE LATTER MAGAZINE WAS A MONTHLY INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST

PAGE FOUR MM 161-1480 CLEAR

APPOINTEE IN THE PUBLISHING OF THE "MIAMI MAGAZINE", WHICH MAGAZINE WAS WELL RESPECTED IN THE MIAMI AREA.

SHORTLY AFTER TERMINATING EMPLOYMENT WITH THE "MIAMI MAGAZINE", APPOINTEE WENT TO WORK IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND HAS BEEN SO ENGAGED AS OF MAY 25, 1977.

[REDACTED] SAID APPOINTEE'S PARENTS ARE BOTH DECEASED AS OF THE EARLY 1970S, AND HE HAS NO SURVIVING BROTHERS OR SISTERS. APPOINTEE IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN. HE SAID APPOINTEE, HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN ARE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, LOYAL AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND HE HAS ONLY COMPLIMENTARY PHRASEOLOGY CONCERNING THE APPOINTEE. HE IS NOT AWARE OF ANY ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THE AFOREMENTIONED ARMY RESERVE UNIT THAT APPOINTEE HAD BEEN AWARE OF. [REDACTED] RECOMMENDED APPOINTEE FOR A POSITION OF TRUST WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

ON MAY 24, 1977, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED HE MET APPOINTEE APPROXIMATELY FOUR YEARS AGO WHILE APPOINTEE WAS EDITOR OF THE "MIAMI MAGAZINE". HE ORIGINALLY CONTACTED THE APPOINTEE AS AN ASPIRING AUTHOR AND REQUESTED THE APPOINTEE'S TUTORING IN THIS FIELD. THE APPOINTEE AGREED TO HELP HIM. CONSEQUENTLY HE HAS CONTACTED

PAGE FIVE MM 161-1480 CLEAR

THE APPOINTEE EVERY MONTH OR TWO FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. CONSEQUENTLY HE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH APPOINTEE, HIS WIFE, AND CHILDREN. HE RECALLED APPOINTEE TERMINATED HIS POSITION WITH THE "MIAMI MAGAZINE" IN FEBRUARY, 1975. THE APPOINTEE SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED AN ARTICLE OR TWO FOR [REDACTED] AT THE "GOLD COAST PICTORIAL MAGAZINE". FURTHER DURING THIS PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, FROM FEBRUARY, 1975 TO NOVEMBER, 1975, APPOINTEE ORGANIZED HIS WORK PERTAINING TO A NOVEL HE CONTEMPLATES WRITING. HE SAID APPOINTEE HAS BEEN WORKING IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C., AREA SINCE NOVEMBER, 1975, BUT HAS RETAINED HIS FAMILY AND RESIDENCE IN THE MIAMI AREA. FURTHER, APPOINTEE IS PROUD OF HIS RESIDENCE AT 7532 TREASURE DRIVE, NORTH BAY VILLAGE, FLORIDA. THE APPOINTEE HAS A SMALL SAIL BOAT AND SAILS IT IN THE ADJACENT WATERS.

ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] APPOINTEE HAS WRITTEN A BOOK ABOUT WALTER ANNENBURG, A REPORTED ASSOCIATE OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON. THE APPOINTEE HAS BEEN PROMINANT IN THE JOURNALISM FIELD BY HIS COMPOSING ARTICLES FOR VARIOUS MAGAZINES. THE APPOINTEE WRITES HIS ARTICLES WITH A FLAIR TOWARD THE SEMI-PHILOSOPHICAL AND THESE ARTICLES GENERALLY PERTAIN TO LOCAL

PAGE SIX MM 161-1480 CLEAR

ISSUES. [REDACTED] FINDS THE APPOINTEE IS RESPECTED BY HIS PEERS, ASSOCIATES, AND STUDENTS OF THE JOURNALISM FIELD. HE SAID

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[REDACTED] OF THE "GOLD COAST PICTORIAL MAGAZINE" OF FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, IS THE CLOSEST ASSOCIATE OF APPOINTEE.

HE FINDS APPOINTEE, HIS WIFE, AND FAMILY ARE ALL OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, LOYAL AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND HE HAD ONLY COMPLIMENTS PERTAINING TO THE APPOINTEE. HE RECOMMENDED APPOINTEE FOR A POSITION WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

CREDIT RECORDS, MIAMI, REFLECT APPOINTEE ENJOYS GOOD CREDIT RATING.

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Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
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Crim. Inv.	_____
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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

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PP HQ

DE NH

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RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FM NEW HAVEN (161-2174) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

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Emp Sec & Spec
Inq Section
3823 JEH 21 #231

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, AKA. SPI. HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS. BUDED MAY 26, 1977.

RE PHILADELPHIA TEL TO BUREAU MAY 25, 1977.

ON MAY 25, 1977, MR. FRED MALISKY, PERSONNEL RECORDS DIVISION, UNIROYAL, INC., MIDDLEBURY, CT., ADVISED A SEARCH OF THEIR COMPUTER PERSONNEL FILES DID NOT REVEAL A PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT FOR APPOINTEE IN PHILADELPHIA. MALISKY SAID AT ONE TIME THE U.S. RUBBER CO. HAD A BRANCH OPERATION AT 5TH AND LOCUST ST., PHILADELPHIA. HOWEVER, RECORDS FROM THIS PLANT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. RECORDS ALSO FAIL TO REVEAL WHEREABOUTS OR IDENTITY OF A FORMER SUPERVISOR (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) MALISKY SAID HE KNEW NO ONE NOW AT UNIROYAL WHO WOULD RECALL APPOINTEE.

161-12863 - 15

NOT RECORDED
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70 AUG 24 1977

cedgk

G. Murphy

PG. 2 NH 161-2174

MALISKY WAS ADVISED OF PROVISIONS OF PRIVACY ACT; DID NOT
REQUEST CONFIDENTIALITY.

BT

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 5/26/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM: SAC, WFO (161-12295) (P)

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, aka
 Gaetano Fonzi, Jr.
 SPECIAL INQUIRY
 HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
 ASSASSINATIONS
 BUDED: 5/26/77

ReBuairtel to WFO dated 5/11/77 and SLtel to Bu
 dated 5/25/77.

Where appropriate, Privacy Act (e) (3) data was
 furnished to persons interviewed. Express promises of
 confidentiality, both limited and unlimited, have been
 noted where granted.

LEAD. WFO. CSC outstanding.

161-12863-16

NOT RECORDED

6 JUL 21 1977

1- Bureau
 1- WFO

RLW:mad
 (2)

Approved

70 AUG 24 1977

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

WFO 161-12295

MGA:sew

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U.S. Senate

On May 16, 1977, SA [redacted] determined at the Disbursing Office, U.S. Senate, the appointee, GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, was born October 10, 1935, and entered on duty November 19, 1975, as Staff Assistant, Office of U.S. Senator RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, Pennsylvania.

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10/23/76 Termination.

No additional pertinent information was noted.

WFO 161-12295

PWK:alr

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EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on May 24, 1977, at the Office of Senator RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. (WDC). [redacted] advised that he has known the appointee since November, 1975 on a limited professional basis. [redacted] stated that the appointee worked for [redacted] as an investigator from November, 1975 until October, 1976. [redacted] stated that during the period that he was associated with the appointee he found the appointee to be a highly effective investigator with the ability to gain the confidence with those with whom he talked and an ability to get things done. Not only did the appointee have the ability of gaining the confidence of people, but also showed a genuine concern for them. On the surface the appointee appears to be a quiet, unassuming individual but is in fact an aggressive energetic highly perceptive person. [redacted] continued that he has never had reason to question any aspects of the appointee's character or his loyalty to the United States. Nothing of a derogatory nature concerning the appointee's associations or affiliations ever came to [redacted] attention, and he has no reason to believe that the appointee is any thing other than a respectable, moral and sober individual, who enjoys a favorable reputation in his community. [redacted] would have no reason not to recommend the appointee for a position of trust and confidence with the Federal Government.

[redacted] advised that prior to November, 1975 he knew the appointee primarily by reputation and that in November, 1975 the appointee joined the staff of Senator SCHWEIKER as a staff investigator. The appointee's primary area of investigation dealt with the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. According to [redacted] the appointee, who reported directly to Senator SCHWEIKER, is one of the finest investigative reporters in the Country. He would rate him as one of the top three investigator reporters. Although the appointee spent 90% of his time working in Miami, Florida, [redacted] had almost daily telephone conversations with him. He described the appointee as a quiet, soft spoken, honest, discreet, reliable and trust worthy individual, whose loyalty to the United States is unquestioned. Nothing of a derogatory nature regarding the appointee's associations or affiliations ever came to [redacted] attention and he is of the opinion that the appointee enjoys a

WFO 161-12295

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favorable reputation in his community, both professionally and socially. [] concluded that he would absolutely recommend the appointee for a position of trust and confidence with the Federal Government.

[] advised that she has known the appointee since approximately December, 1975, on a limited professional basis. She described the appointee as a soft spoken, intelligent, perceptive, alert individual who thinks before he speaks. She stated that the appointee enjoys an excellent reputation is well thought of and highly respected. At no time has she had reason to question any aspect of the appointee's character, and considers him to be very honest and dependable individual. Nothing of a derogatory nature regarding his associations has ever come to her attention and she considers him to be a loyal American citizen. She stated that she would recommend him for a position of trust and confidence with the U.S. Government.

WFO 161-12295

WOM:mad

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] on May 16, 1977:

The employment records at the Finance Office,
United States House of Representatives, are unavailable.

House Select Committee on Assassinations
Washington, D.C.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] on May 16, 1977:

[redacted] advised that he had known the appointee GASTON JOSEPH FONZI, on a professional basis since late December, 1976. He stated that the appointee is one of the staff investigators with the above Committee and began employment on January 1, 1977. He stated that the appointee worked for Senator R. S. SCHWEIKER as an investigator before coming to the above Committee. He stated that the appointee is a top-knotch professional and is intelligent. He further advised that the appointee works along on the Committee's investigation in Miami, Florida, and does not visit Washington, D.C. He advised that hardly anyone on the above Committee would know the appointee because all of the appointee's investigation is done in Florida and he has little association with the investigators in Washington, D.C.

[redacted] concluded by stating that he had no reason to question the appointee's character, associates, reputation or loyalty and recommended him for a position of trust with the United States Government.

[redacted] advised that he had a limited professional contact with the appointee since late December, 1976. He stated that the appointee works for the above Committee in Miami, Florida, and visits or sends his investigation to Washington, D.C. only once a month or so. He considers the appointee to be both reliable and dependable. He further stated that hardly anyone on the above Committee would have any direct dealings with the appointee because of the appointee's investigation in Miami, Florida.

WFO 161-12295

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[] concluded by stating that he had no reason to question the appointee's character, associates, reputation or loyalty and recommended him for a position of trust with the United States Government.

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WFO 161-12295

PWK:alr

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REFERENCES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] on May 24, 1977 at the office of Senator
RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER:

[redacted] advised that he has known the appointee on a professional basis for approximately two years. Their association has been fairly close even though they were not located in the same office. [redacted] stated that the appointee was working in Miami for Senator SCHWEIKER as an investigator but that they had daily telephone conversations. He stated that he has maintained a friendship with the appointee since. [redacted] stated that the appointee is an honest, discreet, reliable and trustworthy individual and one who has the utmost confidence. He considers the appointee to be a loyal American citizen who enjoys an outstanding reputation professionally being considered tops in the field of journalism, as well as an outstanding personal reputation. Nothing of a derogatory nature concerning the appointee's associations has ever come to [redacted] attention and he would recommend the appointee for a position of trust stating that the appointee would be a tremendous asset in an investigative capacity.

-Agent: [redacted]

WFO #: 161-1-95

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CREDIT AND POLICE AGENCIES

SC [redacted] caused a search to be made of the files of the Credit Bureau, Incorporated, Washington, D. C., and was advised on 5/16/77 that the files contained (a satisfactory credit record) ~~(no credit rating)~~ ~~(no record)~~ for the Appointee.

On 5/16/77, SC [redacted] determined that no arrest record was contained in the Metropolitan Police Department files concerning the Appointee ~~(or relatives)~~.

It is to be noted that at all times an indefinite number of unidentified records are out of file and not available for review.

On 5/16/77, SC [redacted] determined that no record was contained in the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Motor Vehicle Services, Government of the District of Columbia files concerning the Appointee ~~(or relatives)~~.

On 5/16/77, SC [redacted] searched the files of the U. S. Park Police and no identifiable adult criminal or traffic record could be located regarding the Appointee.

On _____, SC _____ caused a search to be made of the files of the Montgomery County, Maryland Police Department and was advised that no identifiable adult criminal record could be located regarding the _____.

On _____, SC _____ caused a search to be made of the files of the Prince Georges County, Maryland, Police Department and was advised that no identifiable adult criminal record could be located regarding the _____.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 5/31/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (161-12295) (RUO) *la*

GAETON JOSEPH FONZI, aka
 Gaetano Fonzi, Jr.
 SPECIAL INQUIRY
 HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
 ASSASSINATIONS

ReWFOairtel to WFO dated 5/26/77.

On 5/27/77 SC caused a search to be made of the files of the Bureau of Personnel Investigations, Civil Service Commission, and was advised that no record was found concerning the appointee.

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161-12863-17

NOT RECORDED
 6 JUL 21 1977

① Bureau
 1- WFO

RLW:mad

*[Signature]**[Signature]*Approved: *F-425*70 AUG 24 1977 *NFS*

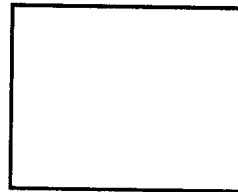
Transmitted

(Number)

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Per

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June 8, 1977

BY LIAISON

ST
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Encl
H

Honorable Louis Stokes
Chairman
Select Committee on Assassinations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with a request received from
you on May 11, 1977, an investigation has been
conducted concerning Mr. Gaston Joseph Fonzi.
Transmitted herewith are two copies of a summary
memorandum containing the results of this investigation.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

REC-90

61-12863-18

DE-54
Y-18

RECORDED

6 JUL 21 1977

Enclosures (2)

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgmt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Tech. Serv. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

ENCLOSURE

DWP:pj (IX)

-7-

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

TO BE HAND DELIVERED BY
OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS
(LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION)

TELETYPE UNIT ☐ RETURN TO ☐

ROOM 3634

FBI/DOJ
201 ST AS

AUG 24 1977

Honorable Louis Stokes

NOTE: Fonzi is a staff investigator with the Select Committee on Assassinations, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. Investigation favorable and complete.

June 8, 1977

Summary GAETON JOSEPH FONZI

THE INVESTIGATION OF MR. FONZI COVERED INQUIRIES AS TO HIS CHARACTER, LOYALTY, ABILITY, AND GENERAL STANDING, BUT NO INQUIRIES WERE MADE AS TO THE SOURCES OF HIS INCOME.

Birth

Mr. Fonzi was born on October 10, 1935, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as Gaetano Joseph Fonzi, Jr.

Education

Mr. Fonzi attended the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from September, 1953, to May, 1957, when he was graduated, receiving a B.A. degree.

Military Service

Mr. Fonzi enlisted in the United States Army Reserve on June 12, 1957, and served in reserve status to November 30, 1957. He entered active duty with the United States Army on December 1, 1957, and served to May 29, 1958, when he was honorably released as a second lieutenant. He reverted to reserve status on May 30, 1958, and served to April 30, 1972, when he was honorably discharged as a captain. His service record is clear.

Employment

During the periods when not a full-time student or employed as hereinafter set forth, Mr. Fonzi was unemployed and residing in Somerdale, New Jersey, or North Bay Village, Florida.

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Adm. Serv. _____
Crim. Inv. _____
Fin. & Pers. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Tech. Serv. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

DWP:pj (IX)

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

RETURN TO

ROOM 3634

FBI/DOJ

Gaeton Joseph Fonzi

Mr. Fonzi has indicated he was employed by the "Delaware County Daily Times," a daily newspaper in Chester, Pennsylvania, as a reporter, from June, 1957, to September, 1957. This employment could not be verified as records for this period have been destroyed.

He has indicated he was employed as an editor with the Chilton Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from June, 1958, to September, 1959. Exact dates of employment could not be verified; however, an associate recalls his being so employed.

From September, 1959, to August, 1972, he was employed as a writer and subsequently as Senior Editor by the "Philadelphia Magazine," a monthly magazine, published in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

He has indicated he was employed as an editor with "Miami Magazine," a monthly magazine, published in Miami, Florida, from October, 1972, to November, 1975. Exact dates of employment could not be verified; however, an associate recalls his being so employed.

From November, 1975, to October, 1976, he served as a staff assistant in the Office of Richard S. Schweiker, United States Senator from Pennsylvania, in Washington, D. C.

Since January, 1977, he has been employed as a staff investigator for the Select Committee on Assassinations, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., working in Miami, Florida.

Marital Status

Mr. Fonzi is married to the former [redacted] and they and their children, [redacted] and [redacted] reside at 7532 West Treasure Drive, North Bay Village, Florida.

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Interviews

Twenty-five persons, consisting of current and former supervisors and co-workers, present and former neighbors, references, associates, and social acquaintances

Gaeton Joseph Fonzi

of Mr. Fonzi's, were interviewed and they advised he is a loyal American whose character, reputation, and associates are above reproach. He was described as articulate, intelligent, dedicated, responsible, and hardworking. It was stated he is a very thorough and dedicated investigative reporter and journalist. They highly recommended him for a position of trust and responsibility.

Close Relatives

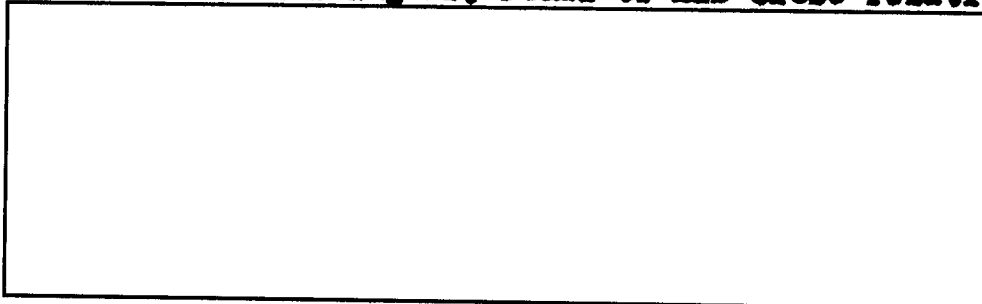
Mr. Fonzi's parents, Gaetano and Leonore Fonzi, are deceased. Mr. Fonzi has no living close relatives, other than his wife and children, mentioned previously.

Persons interviewed during this inquiry who are acquainted with Mr. Fonzi's wife and children advised they are reputable individuals.

Credit and Arrest Checks

Information has been received from appropriate credit reporting agencies indicating their files contain either no record or no additional pertinent information concerning Mr. Fonzi.

Information has been received from appropriate law enforcement agencies indicating their files contain no record concerning Mr. Fonzi or his close relatives,



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Security Clearance

Mr. Fonzi was granted a secret clearance on May 14, 1965, by the Department of the Army. This clearance was terminated on April 30, 1972.

Gaeton Joseph Fonzi

Agency Checks

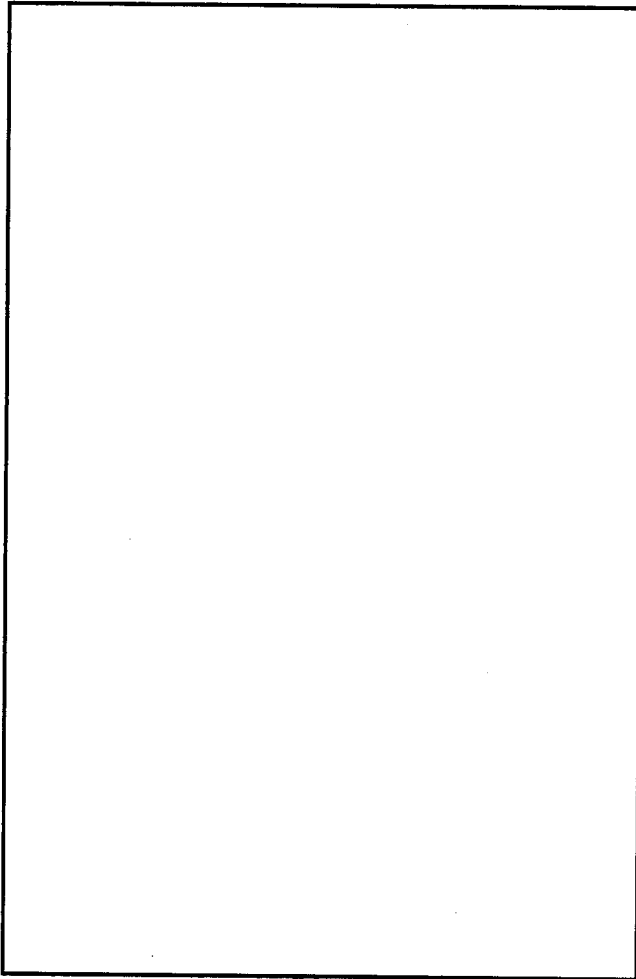
Information has been received from the following governmental agencies indicating their files contain either no record or no additional pertinent information concerning Mr. Fonzi:

Bureau of Personnel Investigations,
Civil Service Commission; Central
Intelligence Agency; and the Defense
Central Index of Investigations.

The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning Mr. Fonzi.

March 22, 1978

Letters concerning the following were returned by The
House Select Committee on Assassinations and destroyed.



GAETON JOSEPH FONZI



(P)

161-12863-21

NOT RECORDED
1 MAR 31 1978

6-MEF: agw
filed

70 APR 17 1978

161-12863